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THE BLUESTONE

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
VOLUME 108

JUST AS IT LAID THE
FOUNDATIONS
FOR NEW BUILDINGS, JMU SET THE
FRAMEWORK
FOR THE REST OF
OUR LIVES.

WE ENTERED EAGER TO BE MOLDED,
AND LEFT FULLY FORMED AND
FEARLESS.

YEAR BY YEAR, THROUGH
OBSTACLES AND EXPERIENCES,
WE BUILT OURSELVES FROM THE
GROUND UP,
SETTING IN STONE
A SECURE FOUNDATION
THAT WOULD LAST US INTO THE
FUTURE.

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FEATURES





BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

RENOVATIONS EXPAND UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

Gibbons Hall, the main campus dining facility that contained D-Hall, Let's Go! Local, Einstein Bros. Bagels and Market One, was demolished over the summer of 2016 after 52 years of operations.

In its place, a redesigned version of the dining hall came under construction. This 97,514 square foot, \$80.7 million renovation would contain a first floor bakery and food court, a second floor buffet-style cafeteria and a third floor banquet hall. The facility was set to open in the fall of 2018.

On the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Way and South Main Street, Hotel Madison and the Shenandoah Valley Conference Center were also works in progress. Hotel Madison would contain 205 rooms, with a swimming pool and fitness center.

Just behind Hotel Madison, Madison Hall was underway to become a 74,933 square foot, four-storied building that was connected to the Student Success Center by a bridge that crossed over South Mason Street. Madison Hall was scheduled to re-open in the fall of 2017.

WORDS: Michelle Criqui

PHOTO: Rebecca Reid

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic





Opposite Above: Columns line the side of the new Madison Hall.

Opposite Left: The redesigned D-Hall begins to rise above main campus.

Opposite Right: Work on Madison Hall takes place along East Grace Street.

Left: Across from the Gingerbread House, Hotel Madison lays its foundations.

Right: The James Madison bust faces the ongoing D-Hall construction.

Below: A crane lifts pieces of Madison Hotel into place.





ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

STUDENTS SERVE ON DOMESTIC SERVICE TRIPS

While spring break could be a time for students to relax and catch up on their sleep, Alternative Spring Break provided the chance for students to mentally and emotionally challenge themselves by signing up for a trip to serve the community.

On one such ASB trip to Louisville, Kentucky, a professor, two student leaders and 12 volunteers attempted to address the need for assistance in teaching English as a Second Language to refugees.

“[The trip involved] working with refugees from a resettlement center and teaching English as a Second Language, and basically just going to the classrooms and helping teachers,” Lauren Brittigan, a junior majoring in intelligence analysis and philosophy and religion, said.

Jamie Simpkins, a junior majoring in psychology and media arts and design, also volunteered on the Kentucky trip. She discussed the different levels of ESL classes offered and the various challenges the volunteers faced while serving.

“We went to a very beginner class where [the students] didn’t know any English, and that was probably the hardest because [we had] to figure out a way to communicate,” Simpkins said.

Brittigan stated that her most memorable moment on the trip was when another team

member was able to use American Sign Language to communicate with a deaf woman.

“That was a really powerful moment where they could actually ... speak, even though sign language does have its own different dialects, too,” Brittigan said.

Before the trip, most of the team members barely knew one another, but according to Brittigan and Simpkins, their experience over seven days developed strong bonds and lasting friendships.

“The community was great,” Brittigan said. “It was basically like a slumber party every night.”

Simpkins seemed to agree, noting that she did not expect to get to know her group members as well as she did.

“I don’t even remember how we got so close because I pretty much had the best group,” Simpkins said. “Everyone got along; they became our best friends.”

The Louisville team strived to continue investing in the relationships they formed with both the refugees and each other even after they returned to JMU.

WORDS: Brooke Long

PHOTO: Casey Dwyer and
Courtesy of Anthony Dalida Jr.

DESIGN: Kathryn Magnier



Junior Anthony Dalida Jr. volunteers in West Camden, New York. Areas across the country received help from Alternative Spring Break volunteers.



JMU students paint over graffiti in New York. Alternative Spring Break trips allowed students to give back to those in need.

DAVID KOECHNER

TV, FILM AND INTERNET STAR PERFORMS STAND-UP COMEDY

On Feb. 18, the University Program Board welcomed writer, producer and actor David Koechner to Wilson Hall. Koechner had played Todd Packer in “The Office,” Champ Kind in “Anchorman,” and Uncle Earl in “Hannah Montana.” All of Koechner’s roles were comedy based, and he continued this pattern by cracking jokes onstage all evening.

Koechner started out in comedy at a young age, performing in skits until he landed a spot on the sketch comedy TV show “Saturday Night Live” in 1995. Koechner had been performing professionally since then, earning roles in movies and TV shows. When he was not shooting for the big screen, he was filming for his YouTube channel, “Full On Koechner,” or performing stand-up around the country at venues such as Wilson Hall.

WORDS: Madison Gorfida

PHOTO: Carley Toms

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



Comedian David Koechner speaks into the microphone to during his stand-up comedy routine in Wilson Hall. Many audience members recognized Koechner from movies and TV shows.

MADITHON

12-HOUR DANCE MARATHON RAISES FUNDS FOR CHILDREN

UREC seemed to sway with the beat of the music as volunteers, students and families came together for MadiTHON, an annual 12-hour dance marathon benefiting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and which the Phi Mu Fraternity coordinated.

"MadiTHON is a great opportunity to put a smile on the face of these really sweet kids who really are in need of a lot of help," senior biology major Drew Sigman said.

Sigman was the director of MadiTHON 2016. As a member of Phi Mu, she played an active role in the growing success of each MadiTHON. The event had increased in size by 45 percent since the 2013-2014 school year.

"It made us the largest dance marathon program in the state of Virginia," Sigman said.

Sigman and KellyAnne Thompson, a senior interdisciplinary liberal studies major and a Phi Mu member, both viewed MadiTHON as a way to have fun with the children they were raising money to help.

"This is just one of [the children's] favorite days because they're 'famous,'" Thompson said. "They're celebrities."

The concept of a smile was central to MadiTHON's success. The goal was to provide an opportunity for families, children and members of the community to come together for a day of fun.

"I feel like [the event] can change the course of a ... person's day and even their whole life," Sigman said.

According to Sigman, planning for the following year's event began the day after MadiTHON ended. This preparation came together at the dance marathon in the form of live performances, family testimonies and plenty of dancing.

"Groups come in, [such as] Madison Dance," Thompson said. "We had a UREC cardio dance party [and] an instructor came in, and that was really fun."

While MadiTHON's original goal was to raise money for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, the mission had grown larger.

"I would love to see [MadiTHON] get as big as 'THON' at [the Pennsylvania State University], but it doesn't have to, as long as there's still momentum and there's still ... the drive to help these kids," Thompson said.

MadiTHON's influence seemed to transcend UREC, extending instead to the hearts of the children at Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

WORDS: Hayley Verdeyen

PHOTO: Courtesy of Jay Spiegel

DESIGN: Alexandra Orndahl



Four-year-old Charlie stands on stage during MadiTHON. Charlie was a patient at the University of Virginia Children's Hospital.

DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK

THE OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES PROMOTES AWARENESS

JMU's seventh annual Disability Awareness Week took place in March 2016, commencing with keynote speaker and Harrisonburg native Josh Sundquist, who had lost his left leg to Ewing's sarcoma when he was 9. An author, comedian, inspirational speaker and Paralympic skier, Sundquist's goal was to motivate and inspire students to achieve greatness despite hardships.

Other events took place over the course of the week, as well. On March 29, the Office of Disability Services partnered with the Center for Multicultural Student Services to bring an organization called Dear World to campus. Project participants were asked to write on their bodies phrases that described their experiences and were then photographed to illustrate the individual stories of students with disabilities.

Scarlet Racey, a junior social work major and an ODS peer access advocate, explained that the theme of the week was #I'veGotThis.

"[The theme] demonstrated that whether you're a student with a disability or you're an ally, it's important to take care of yourself," Racey said. "That way, you can be the best advocate you can be."

Racey said that dedicating a week to disability awareness was a worthwhile effort with a powerful impact.

"[Disability Awareness Week] brings students with and without disabilities together and provides an opportunity to educate," Racey said. "It also provides an opportunity for community and building relationships."

Haley Lipton, a junior social work major and peer access advocate, added that Dear World's presence on campus was significant.

"Dear World was an especially good opportunity for us because [it is] a national-

level organization," Lipton said. "[Its representatives] shared with us that [JMU] was the college that gave the biggest turnout."

This amount of participation made such an impact that the one-day project ended up lasting for three days.

Later in the week, Dining Services contributed to Disability Awareness Week by hosting an allergy awareness cooking show at D-Hall, which Dining Services employee Chef Rob led.

"We gathered information about the audience's allergies, and then [Chef Rob] created a dish that no one was allergic to and also didn't contain any of the eight main allergens in the United States," Racey said.

ODS, UREC, the Hart School of Hospitality, and the departments of Kinesiology and Sport and Recreation Management all helped sponsor an adaptive sports showcase in Godwin Hall that same evening.

"[During this event,] students were allowed to come into Godwin [Hall] and play sports that are in the Paralympics," Racey said.

The Charlottesville Cardinals wheelchair basketball team and the Virginia State Ladies Goalball team coach and captain also came to teach and play with the students.

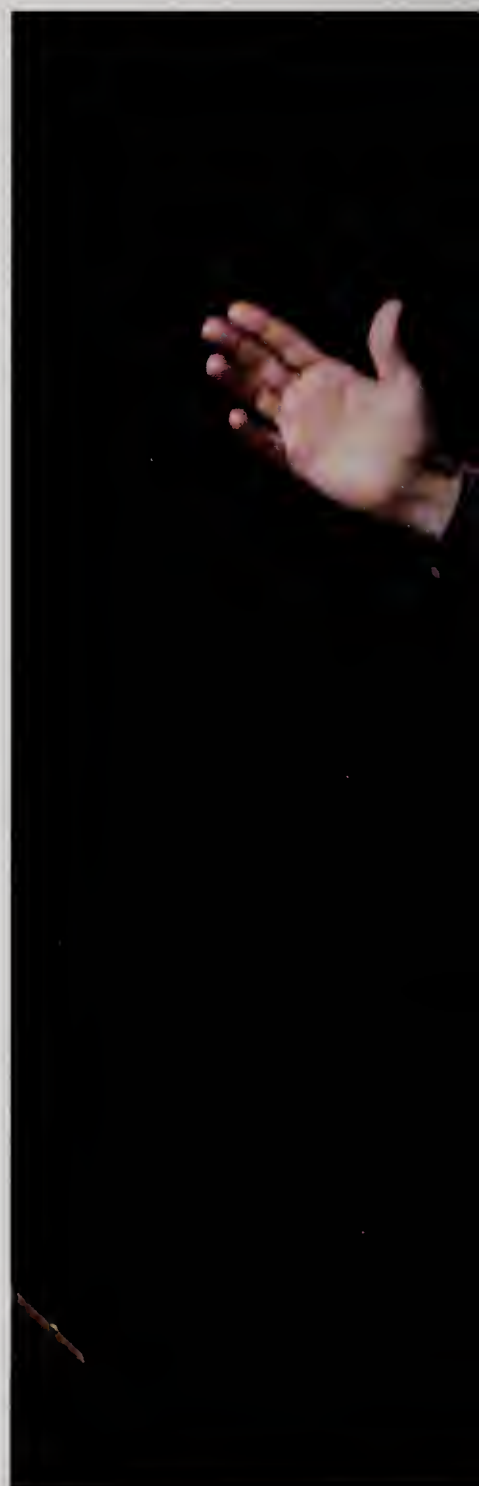
The week ended with an open house that ODS hosted and that allowed students, faculty and staff to tour the new ODS location in the Student Success Center.

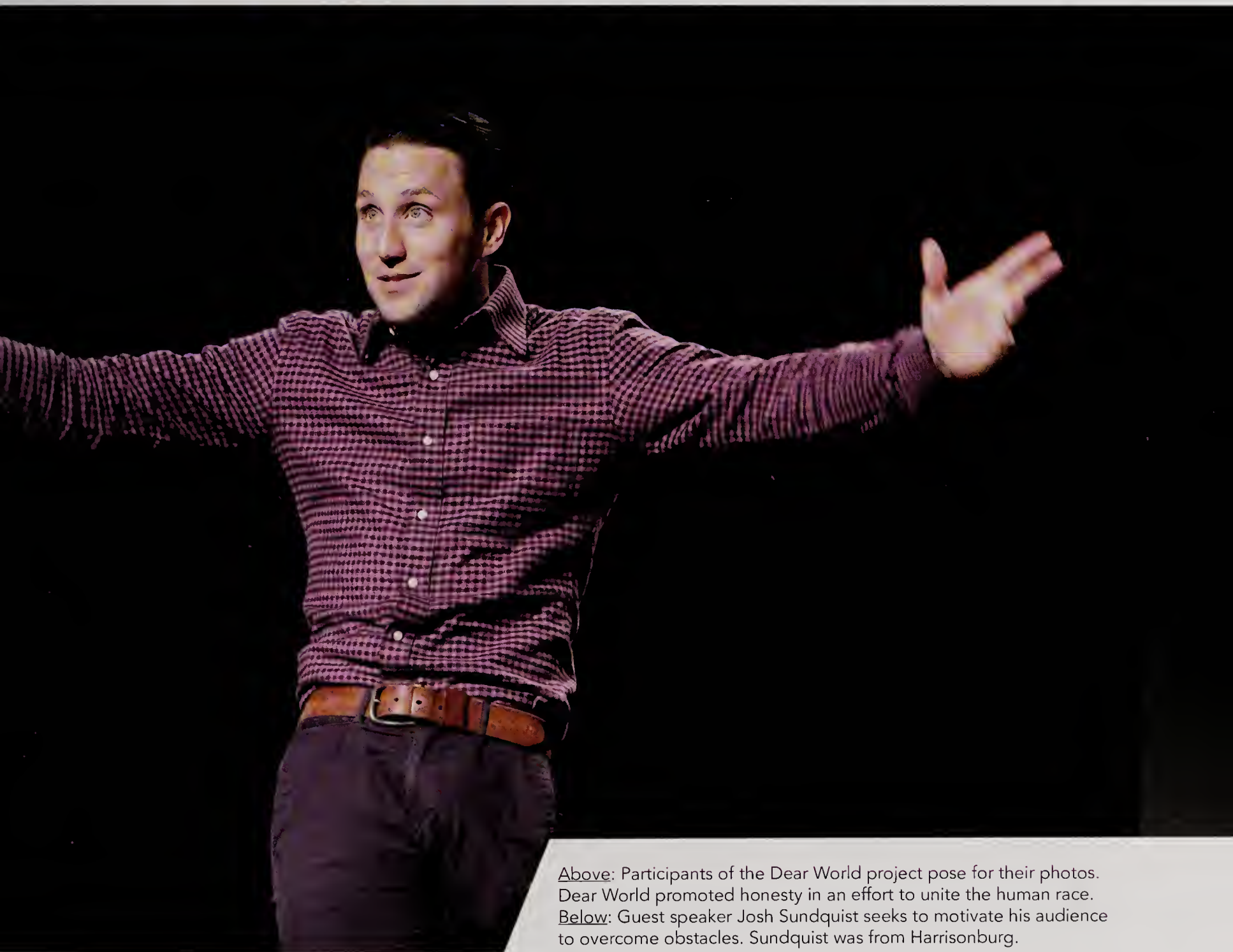
With guest speakers, educational activities and opportunities for expressing personal experiences, Disability Awareness Week 2016 was an effort to give those with disabilities a chance to connect with one another.

WORDS: Chelsea Church

PHOTO: Courtesy of Dear World

DESIGN: Gabriela Baker





Above: Participants of the Dear World project pose for their photos. Dear World promoted honesty in an effort to unite the human race.
Below: Guest speaker Josh Sundquist seeks to motivate his audience to overcome obstacles. Sundquist was from Harrisonburg.

Madipalooza



ANNUAL FESTIVAL USHERS IN SPRING

Cloudy skies did not stop students and other festivalgoers from attending one of JMU's major spring events, Madipalooza, on April 9, 2016. Although the music festival was moved inside the Convocation Center due to rain, there was still a sizable turnout.

Musical artists from a variety of genres performed at the event. Caulfield, the student band that had won the 2016 Rumble Down Under competition, was the event opener. Other performers included The Know, Logan Mize, D.R.A.M., Big Mama Shakes and The Broadcast.

"The crowd was singing along and dancing and ... showing enthusiasm," senior media arts and design major Grace Albert

said. "Everyone knew [D.R.A.M.'s] song 'Cha Cha,' so it was pretty energetic when he sang that one."

Madipalooza also included food vendors that offered a wide variety of cuisines. The festival offered sponsor freebies, various eating contests, inflatables and raffles.

The University Program Board's committee for Madipalooza, a group composed of both faculty members and students, worked to make this event possible. The committee was broken into different sections: operations and logistics, volunteers, large scale activities, small scale activities, door prizes, marketing, and food.

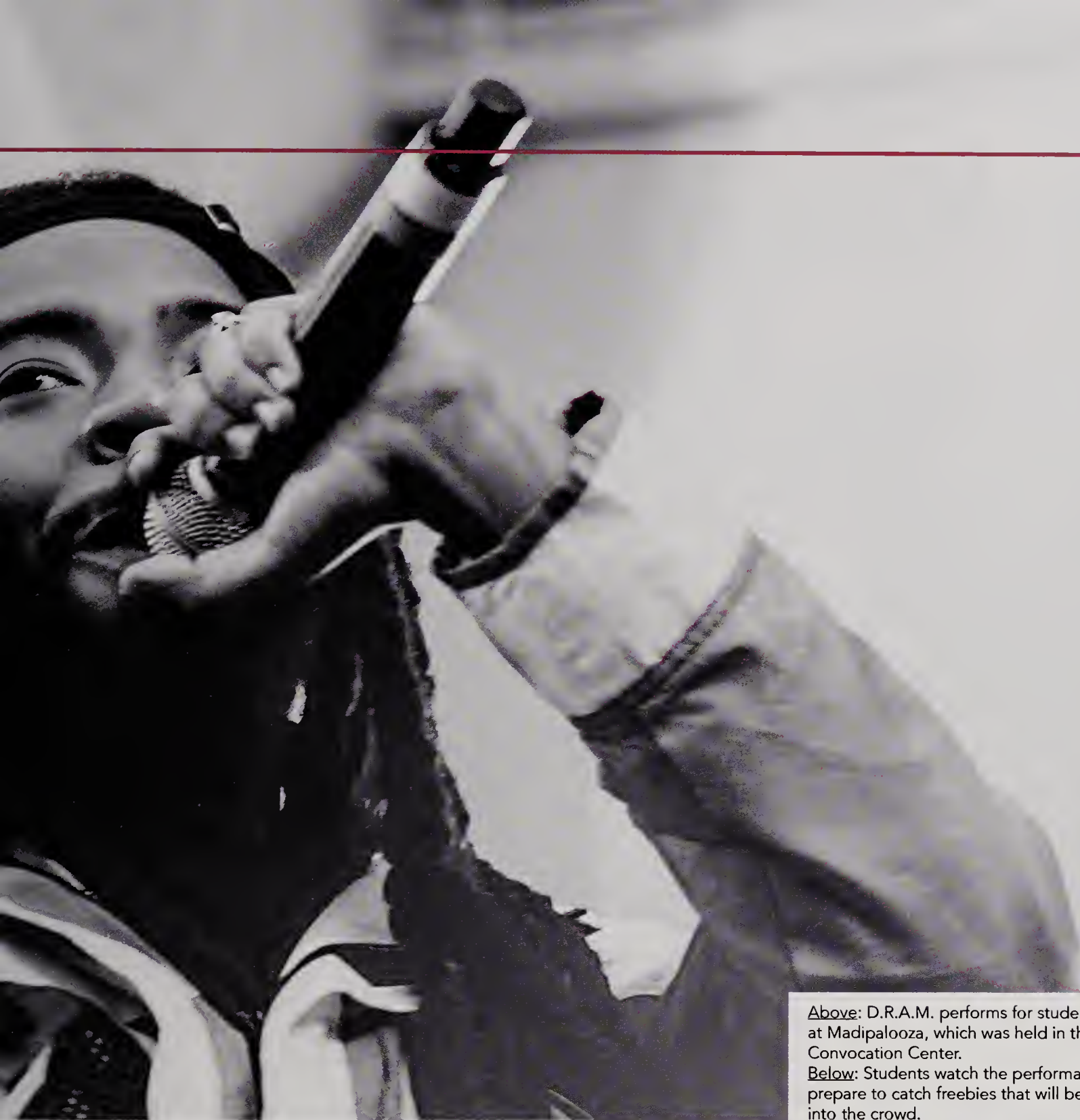
"[The best part is] working so hard with a goal in mind and then seeing it all

come together and seeing everyone get to enjoy a cool event," Marena Jones, a 2016 graduate, said.

A popular spring event, Madipalooza was often seen as a celebration for students before finals week began.

"[Madipalooza is] for everyone that wants to go hang with friends [and] get free T-shirts and free food," faculty co-chair Megan Driver said. "There is something for everyone, and [the event is] an overall positive thing to have on JMU's campus each year for the students."

Albert, the spotlight director, was tasked with making sure that all festival areas were staffed and that all UPB members knew where they had to be to do their jobs.



Above: D.R.A.M. performs for students at Madipalooza, which was held in the Convocation Center.

Below: Students watch the performance and prepare to catch freebies that will be thrown into the crowd.

“I just loved seeing such a large portion of the JMU community enjoying our hard work,” Albert said. “It’s so rewarding to see your own community enjoying something that you played a part in planning.”

Although Madipalooza took place inside, many believed that the festival still succeeded in ushering in the spring season in Harrisonburg, hinting at the warmth that would soon be approaching.



WORDS: Jacqueline Garcia

PHOTO: University Unions Technology and Design

DESIGN: Kathryn Magnier

RELAY FOR LIFE

STUDENTS GATHER TO SUPPORT CANCER RESEARCH

Every April, Hillside Field transformed into a track that held JMU's largest fundraiser, Relay For Life. On April 15, 2016, nearly 4,000 participants gathered to honor and support those whom cancer had affected. Relay for Life was affiliated with the American Cancer Society, which aimed to find a cure for cancer and save lives. Those who relayed were also encouraged to raise money for a cure. The fundraising goal was \$250,000, but donors quickly surpassed this figure, reaching a total of \$290,000 and making this event JMU's largest Relay for Life to date.

Student involvement seemed to promote Relay for Life's success. Sophomore nursing major Megan Zook wanted to get more involved with the event and thus became a committee member.

"I decided to become more involved in Relay for Life because my grandmother passed away from brain cancer when I was a junior in high school," Zook said. "I love the things the money raised through Relay for Life does and all of the amazing support and opportunities it provides people."

To kick off the night, cancer survivors and other participants walked around the track to celebrate their journeys. The Luminaria Ceremony was the second main event, paying respect to those who had passed away from cancer or who were current cancer patients.

The concluding section of the night was called the "Fight Back Ceremony," during which event leaders revealed the final amount of money that had been raised for the cause. Several guest speakers also presented during the event, including cancer survivor and health sciences professor Timothy Howley.

For junior geology major and cancer survivor Morgan Treon, the most impactful part of the night was the Luminaria Ceremony.

"It is the most touching moment of the night," Treon said. "There are always many emotions during the ceremony. I always think of my friends who were not as fortunate as me to survive. I also think of everyone who supported me through my journey, both during chemo and post-chemo."

Throughout the 12-hour event, the overarching message seemed evident to those who participated.

"Everyone should walk away from the busy night and remember what Relay for Life is about: creating a world with more birthdays," Treon said.

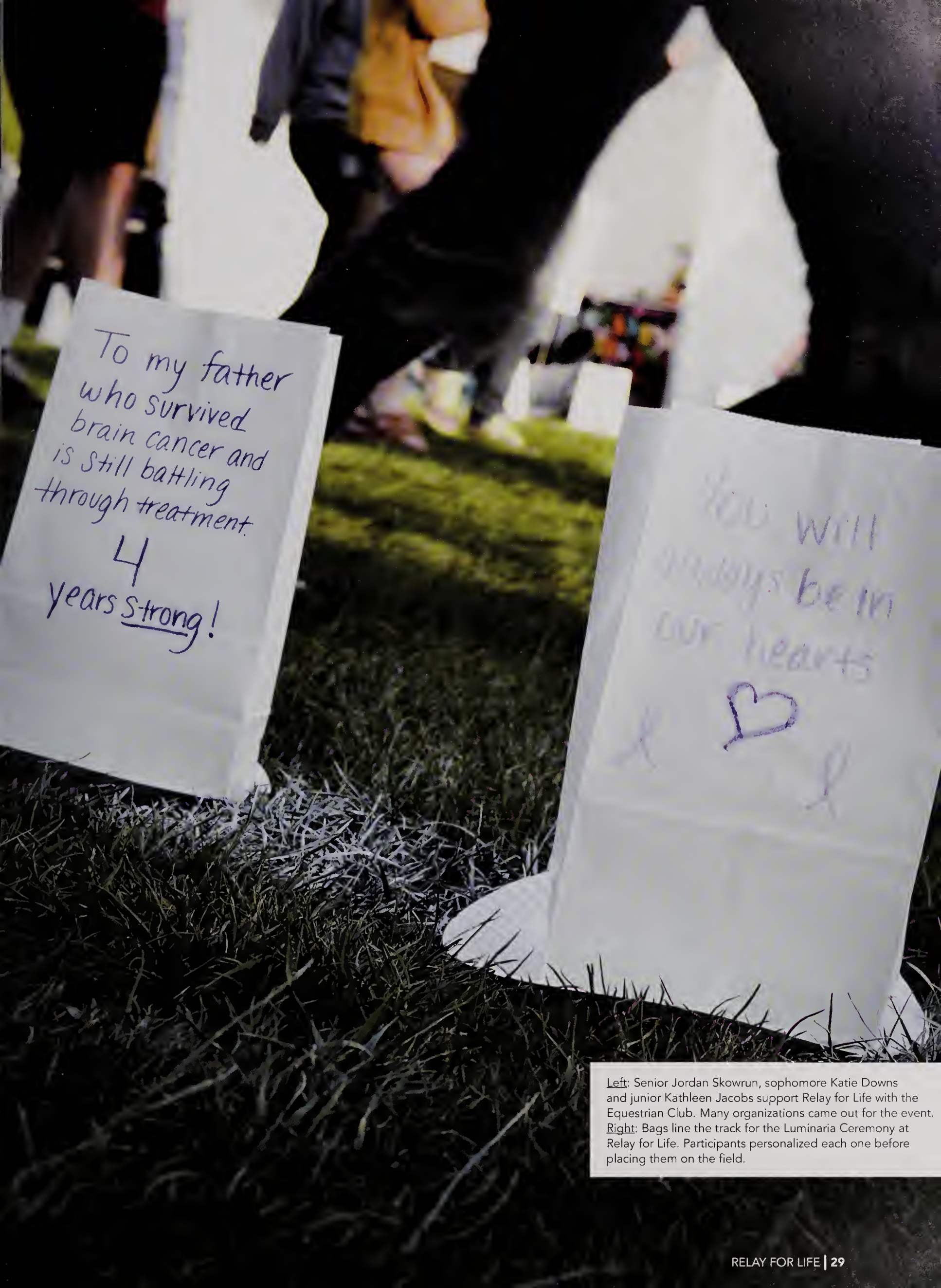
During Relay for Life, Hillside Field seemed to teem with life in support of this very idea.

WORDS: Samantha Swingle

PHOTO: Nicole Landry

DESIGN: Alexandra Orndahl





To my father
who survived
brain cancer and
is still battling
through treatment.

4
years strong!

You will
always be in
our hearts



Left: Senior Jordan Skowrun, sophomore Katie Downs and junior Kathleen Jacobs support Relay for Life with the Equestrian Club. Many organizations came out for the event. Right: Bags line the track for the Luminaria Ceremony at Relay for Life. Participants personalized each one before placing them on the field.



RAE SREMMURD

HIP HOP DUO PERFORMS AT JMU

WORDS: Chelsea Church
PHOTO: University Unions Technology and Design
DESIGN: Kenneth Busio



Khalif "Swae Lee" Brown of Rae Sremmurd performs for students at the Convocation Center during the spring concert. Tickets for the show nearly sold out.

On April 18, Rae Sremmurd, a hip-hop duo consisting of brothers Khalif and Aaquil Brown, took the stage for the spring concert at the Convocation Center, along with opener and rap artist Omen.

Because the spring concert was the biggest event that the University Program Board hosted during the year, UPB members had to conduct research while also bearing in mind their budget and students' music interests in order to select an artist.

UPB used social media to unveil the artist, Rae Sremmurd. The tickets came very close to selling out due to interest among students and hip-hop enthusiasts around Harrisonburg. According to Elizabeth Miller, a senior communications major and the president of UPB, the size of the audience and the large venue meant that UPB had to have the manpower to put on such an event.

One of UPB's goals for hosting concerts was to engage the community and ultimately to provide students with live music and a place to have fun with friends.

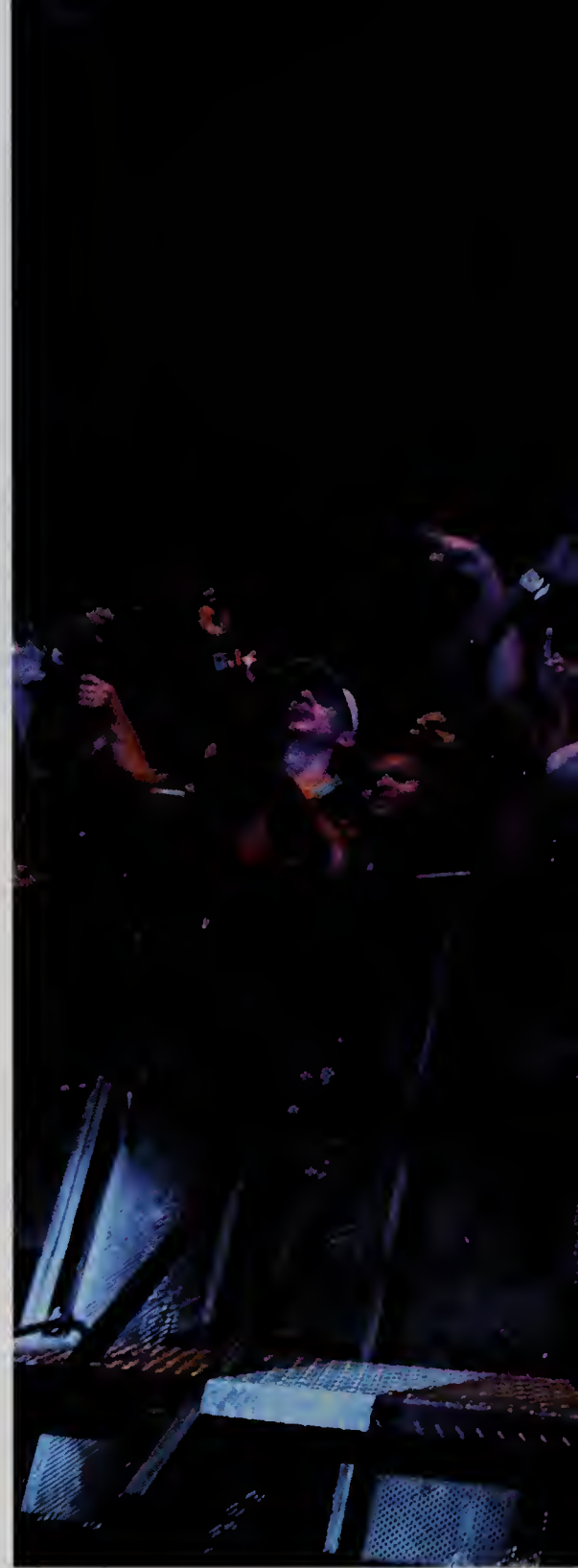
"[It's] great, whether we have 12 people there or 3,000," Miller said.

As a senior who had been a part of UPB since her freshman year, Miller had the opportunity to see the success of all the hard work put into these shows.

"It is just really cool to see the pit and everyone there just having a great time, regardless of any show we have had," Miller said.

Julie Russo, a sophomore health sciences major, said that she had a great time at the concert even though she was not a die-hard fan. Russo went to the show with a group of friends and said that the experience was entertaining, especially when she heard her favorite song by the group, "Come Get Her."

"Everybody gets really into it," Russo said. "You don't see people just standing around; everyone really enjoys themselves and has a good time."



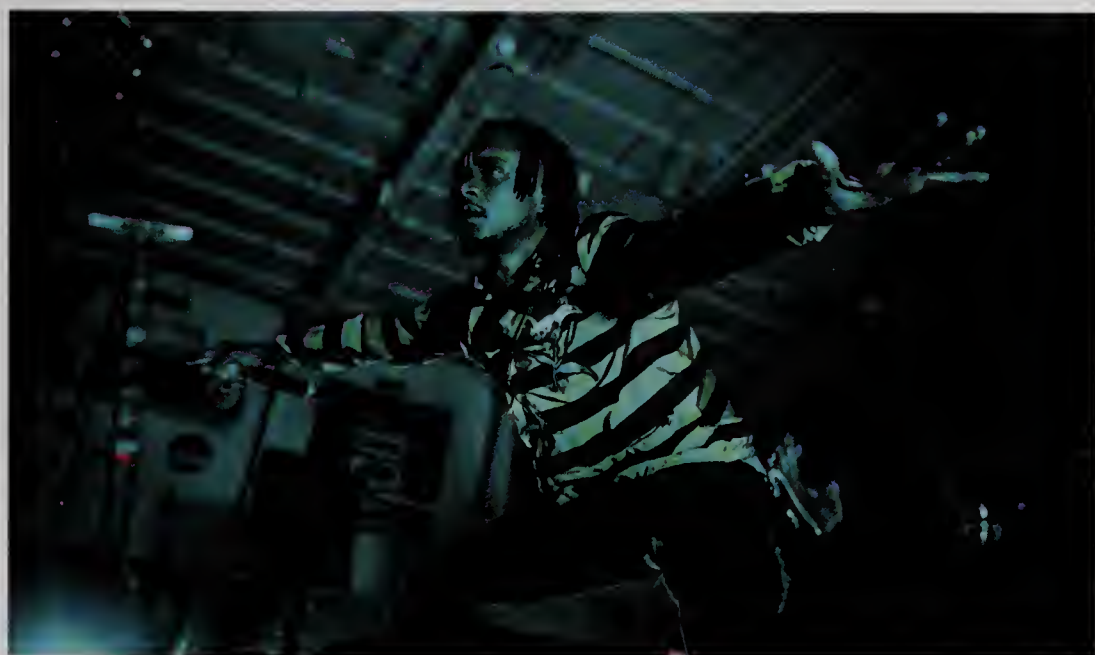
Sophomore marketing majors Melissa Hadley and Paige Barlow were huge fans of the rap duo and experienced the concert from the front row.

"[The experience was] almost surreal," Hadley said. "It was the best concert I've ever been to."

One of Barlow's favorite aspects of UPB concerts was the price and accessibility of tickets.

"It's so cheap for [students]," Barlow said. "We get really big names, and you get so close to them."

Rae Sremmurd's energy and interaction with the crowd kept most audience members on their feet, providing a night of hip-hop music as the spring semester drew to a close.



Above: Students watch hip-hop duo Rae Sremmurd perform. Some chose to sing and dance along with the music.

Below: Aaquil "Slim Jxmmi" Brown of Rae Sremmurd performs for the crowd at the spring concert. UPB announced the event on social media.

LENDING A HELPING HAND

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CLINICAL EDUCATION SERVICES LOCAL CHILDREN

The Occupational Therapy Clinical Education Services provided children and their families with invaluable services. Formally staffed by occupational therapists and other health professionals, this clinic operated to give children and adolescents the therapy that they needed to become successful adults. Some of the medical staff was bilingual, which allowed more children to seek help as well as increase the community impact of the program. OTCES offered both group and specialized programs, allowing student volunteers the opportunity to gain experience in many different fields related to occupational therapy.

WORDS: Hannah Adams


PHOTO: Laura Van Demark

DESIGN: Christine Garrett



Above Top: A banner hangs above a row of bicycles. Occupational Therapy Clinical Education Services aimed to help children and adolescents have more successful futures.
Above Bottom: A bulletin board leads the way into the clinic's Sensory Motor Gym.





Henry, one of the children involved with the clinic, makes use of the Sensory Motor Gym. Students were able to volunteer with OTCES to gain experience in occupational therapy.

RUBY'S ARCADE

RESTUARANT SERVES AS A NEW DOWNTOWN HANGOUT

In the spring of 2016, Ruby's Arcade on South Main Street opened to the city. From bowling to foosball, there was a variety of games to play at the new restaurant. Ruby's also featured bingo nights every Tuesday and benefit events to help give back to the Harrisonburg community. Many students believed that the restaurant made it convenient to have fun, get off campus and explore the downtown area.

WORDS: Raja Abdul-Badee

PHOTO: Carley Toms

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



Above: Ruby's Arcade offers seating and pool hall games to attract visitors. Modern table games, such as ping pong and pool, provided opportunities for many ages.





Above and Left: Ruby's Arcade stands ready for patrons to enjoy a signature cocktail or play a game of bowling. Ruby's offered wood-fired pizzas and signature drinks each night.



Chairs line the bar at Ruby's Arcade. The new restaurant added to the downtown scene.

Spring in the 'Burg

STUDENTS CAPTURE THE CHANGING OF THE SEASONS

When the ice began to thaw and warmth returned to the Shenandoah Valley, signs of renewed life became visible throughout the natural world. Trees regained their leaves, baby animals took their first breath and flowers in a multitude of hues bloomed around campus. With spring taking hold of the valley once more, several student photographers captured the changing environment around them.

WORDS: Michelle Criqui

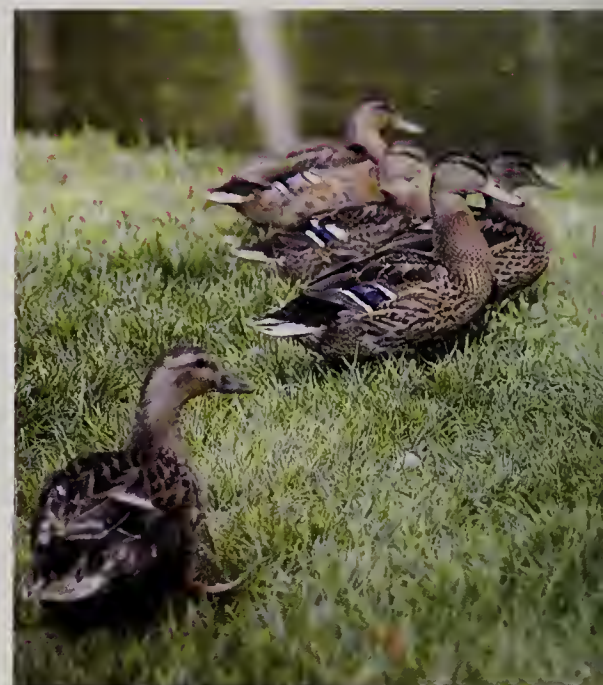
PHOTO: Karen Franz, Hannah Adams and Jillian Wright

DESIGN: Kathryn Magnier and Kenneth Busic



Above: Rain droplets from a spring shower settle on a leaf.

Right: A family of ducks gathers near a pond.





Above: Yellow flowers stand beneath the sun in the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum.
Below: In shades of blue and purple, flowers bloom in the warmth of spring.



GRADUATION

2016

PHOTO: Hannah Adams

DESIGN: Alexandra Rathjens



Above Left: A student holds up a 2016 graduation cap tassel.

Above Right: Graduates stand together in their purple caps and gowns.

Below Bottom: 2016 graduate Lindsey Vasko hugs her mother after the College of Education's graduation ceremony.



The statue of James Madison on Main Campus displays a graduation cap that its owner had decorated for the 2016 commencement ceremony.

OLYMPIC DUKE

ALUMNA TAYLOR WEST COMPETES WITH TEAM USA

Many Americans watched the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro from Aug. 5 through Aug. 21, with its assortment of skilled athletes from across the globe.

While most students experienced the Olympic Games as spectators — cheering on Team USA through their TV screens — one Duke took part in the competition.

2015 graduate Taylor West earned a spot on the U.S. Women's National Field Hockey Team in January 2016. West's desire to become a professional field hockey player began at age 4.

"My mom was a high school coach, so I was always at practices with her, and [I] entertained myself by dribbling around," West said.

As she grew older, West continued to sharpen her skills as a field hockey player. After coming to JMU, the coaching staff of the field hockey team helped her reach her Olympic goals.

"I absolutely loved my experience at JMU," West said. "I always loved playing

[field] hockey, but the coaching staff really re-ignited that passion during my last few seasons at JMU."

At the Olympics, West's team qualified for the quarterfinals but ultimately lost to Germany 1-2. Regardless, the opportunity allowed her to compete alongside some of her athletic heroines.

"My favorite part about the experience has been playing beside some of the players that I idolized growing up," West said.

West said that she felt a little star-struck competing on the same team as her field hockey idols, but she had earned her place among their ranks, gaining a spot that was only given to 30 women in the nation. West brought Duke pride to Team USA, representing the JMU spirit in Rio de Janeiro.

WORDS: Gabriela Baker

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



Taylor West, a 2015 graduate, takes the field during her JMU athletic career. West competed in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

STUDY

CLASSES AND TRAVEL COMBINE ACROSS THE GLOBE

ABROAD

WORDS: Giuliana Macaluso
PHOTO: Dominique Dean
DESIGN: Abigail Mumma and Kenneth Busic

A ski shack sits atop the mountains of Cantabria, Spain. JMU study abroad programs gave students the opportunity to explore new locations.





Above: Shops and buildings line a street in Salamanca, Spain, a JMU study abroad location. Right: A statue stands in the New Cathedral of Salamanca in Spain.



Some students felt that in order to reach their full academic capacity, they needed to transcend the classroom and engage in their area of study on a global scale. JMU made this possible by offering short-term, semester, exchange and graduate study abroad programs. Such experiences challenged students to engage with the unfamiliar. From voyages beneath the cobblestoned streets of Oxford to take the London Underground to excursions atop the Eiffel Tower that skirted the Parisian sky, study abroad programs often granted students a new vantage point that they could integrate into their JMU experience.



AUGUST ORIENTATION

THE ORIENTATION TEAM ENGAGES WITH FIRST-YEARS

When thinking about 1787 August Orientation, many freshmen associated their first week at JMU with games designed to facilitate connections. However, some first-years found that when the games and activities had concluded, bonds were formed and lasting memories were made.

1787 August Orientation was a week of transition for over 4,000 first-year students, and such a change required much help. To this end, the Orientation Team, a group of students and faculty dedicated to overseeing and coordinating the week of activities before classes, set out to make incoming students' transition to JMU the best it could be.

Shane Van Hoy, a senior majoring in communication studies and global justice, chose to become a First yearR Orientation Guide for exactly this purpose.

"I wanted to connect with first-year students on a more personal level," Van Hoy said. "I think 1787 is always a success if it can help even just one individual to have a better transition into JMU."

For Orientation Peer Adviser Brittany Howard, a junior majoring in media arts and design and communication studies, helping out during the week made her remember her love for the university.

"Orientation reinstated the spark I had for JMU and made it flourish," Howard said.

Introducing new students to JMU reminded some upperclassmen of their own

school pride. Many FROGs seemed to be unable to tear themselves away from the events.

"The night of Late Night Breakfast was my night I was allowed to go home early," sophomore interdisciplinary liberal studies major and FROG Kelly Oler said. "Despite this, I stayed the extra two hours because I could not imagine being away from my FROG group."

1787 August Orientation impacted those involved in different ways. Many felt more confident in their new surroundings, and many members of the Orientation Team felt that their hard work and training had shaped a crucial time in students' lives.

"There were small moments that just made the entire experience worthwhile and [helped me] to know that I made an impact, whether it was giving someone a hug or responding to a first-year that was having difficulties," Howard said.

The Orientation Team designed a week of activities to facilitate a community atmosphere. FROGs, OPAs and the entire Orientation Team worked to inspire connections that seemed to ease students into college life as smoothly as possible.

WORDS: Christine Garrett

PHOTO: Sydney Kane

DESIGN: Breanna Young

Orientation Peer Advisers take to the stage during first year orientation programming. This event took place in the Convocation Center.



A First year Orientation Guide stands with her group during an event at Bridgeforth Stadium. Orientation events were held all around campus.





FRESH EATS

JMU WELCOMES FOOD TRUCKS AND A TEMPORARY DINING HALL

At the end of the 2016 spring semester, students said farewell to D-Hall, a dining hall that had been a part of JMU's campus since 1964. Thereafter, a new dining hall came under construction and was set to take D-Hall's place by 2018. Until then, a temporary dining facility called D-Hub was built in part of the R1 parking lot behind the Village Area and opened its doors to students in the summer of 2016.

Like D-Hall, D-Hub was a buffet-style facility and offered a variety of foods including pizza, pasta, burgers, salad, soup and freshly-baked dessert.

Some students seemed to show a lack of enthusiasm for D-Hub and preferred to grab food at other dining locations.

"I'm a pretty picky eater, so when it comes to that, I feel like D-Hub is pretty small and selective," freshman biology major Mandy Phan said. "I prefer eating at other places, [such as] Festival or E-Hall, since [they are] near my dorm."

Other students mentioned that they enjoyed D-Hub and the food it offered, but a few seemed to believe that the area was less convenient than D-Hall's more centralized location.

"D-Hub is nice, but it's kind of far

from Grace Street Apartments, which is where I live," sophomore psychology major Megan Lau said.

Two food trucks, Fueled and Nacho Papi's, also opened for students in the fall. Both trucks were parked in A lot, behind Wilson Hall. Some students saw the trucks as a good addition to JMU Dining and viewed this option as a quick and convenient way to pick up a meal.

"The food trucks are convenient, and they're in a good location," freshman English major Jessica Bright said. "They're pretty fast, too."

D-Hub and the food trucks inspired mixed reviews among students. Some believed that D-Hub and D-Hall shared similarities, while others believed that D-Hub did not compare to its predecessor. Either way, the layout of campus changed with the addition of these new dining facilities and the blocked-off construction area where D-Hall used to be. These changes set the foundation for the new dining experience at JMU that was to come.

WORDS: Vanessa Nikolic

PHOTO: DePaul Straub and Hannah Adams

DESIGN: Kenneth Basic

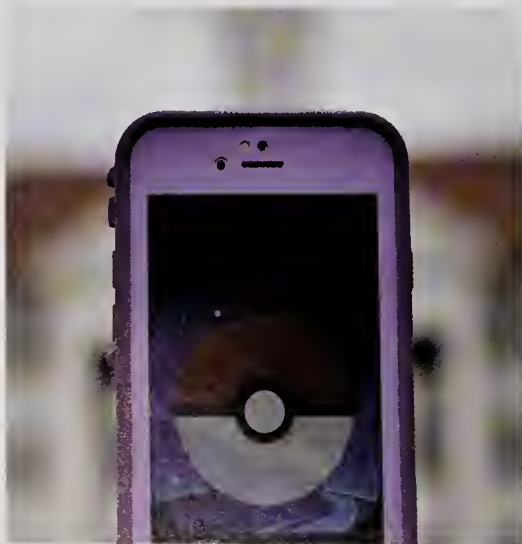
Opposite left: The Fueled food truck is parked behind Wilson Hall. This dining option offered healthy, made-to-order Asian fusion cuisine.

Opposite right: Nacho Papi's awaits students and faculty. This food truck served tacos, nachos and rice bowls.

CATCH. TRAIN. EVOLVE.

POKÉMON GO CRAZE SWEEPS ACROSS CAMPUS

A student uses a Poké Ball to catch Pokémon in the game Pokémon GO. Many players searched for creatures to catch on campus.



Since 1996, the Pokémon franchise had captivated many fans across the world. The video game series, trading cards and television show gave fans the chance to imagine the possibility of being a Pokémon Trainer. But in the summer of 2016, the concept of being a full-fledged Pokémon Master in the real world was brought closer to being a reality.

On July 6, Niantic Inc. launched a new mobile game called Pokémon GO. This game allowed players to explore their own neighborhoods in search of Pokémon that would appear on the users' screens as if they were appearing in real life.

Pokémon GO quickly became the most popular game of the summer. It got users young and old outside as they traveled to PokéStops and gyms. The hot question of the summer became, "Are you on Team Mystic, Valor or Instinct?"

The aspect of this game that earned it so much popularity seemed to be the fact that its users could now feel as though they were catching Pokémon in real life, all while starting their journey to become a Pokémon Master, the highest level of trainer in the game.

Gamers were able to choose starter Pokémon from the first generation of creatures, which included a water-type Squirtle, fire-type Charmander and grass-type Bulbasaur.

Marck Anthony Marquez, a sophomore media arts and design major, stated that he chose Squirtle as his starter Pokémon.

"I like Blastoise," Marquez said of one of Squirtle's evolutionary phases. "I was trying to get [my Squirtle] to evolve, but that was a lot harder than expected."

As with every new mobile game, there were some technical issues that came along with Pokémon GO that prevented many users from using it properly. One of these issues involved security concerns. This was junior health sciences major Victoria Ferramosca's reason to stop playing the game.

"The app could access different parts of your phone that I didn't want it to access, like your memory, and I deleted it for that purpose," Ferramosca said.

Other issues included phone batteries draining, servers crashing and what some considered a repetitive gameplay. However, that did not stop Edison Rolle II, a sophomore

Students play Pokémon Go on their phones. Many were spotted catching Pokémon near Wilson Hall.



economics major, and Theron Smith III, a sophomore theatre major, from continuing to play the game. Pokémon GO's competitive nature kept Rolle and Smith interested.

"When you start out with a low-level Pokémon, you have the opportunity to find better-level Pokémon and to compete and say you're better than your friends," Rolle said. "Being able to compare — that was pretty sweet."

Even though some thought there were problems with the game, many players still experienced a feeling of nostalgia while using the app. Caitlyn Homet, a freshman business major, liked that the game developers brought back her favorite Pokémon, Snorlax.

"He falls asleep, then wakes up and destroys everything," Homet said.

Pokémon GO was the game that many Pokémon enthusiasts had been expecting for over a year. Whether students were fans or not, the Pokémon craze seemed to be undeniable.

WORDS: Raja Abdul-Badee

PHOTO: Laura VanDemark

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



Sophomores Caitlin Bossert and Marck Anthony Marquez catch a Pokémon on the Quad. Pokémon GO was a popular game among students.

RESIDENCE LIFE

STAFF MEMBER PROFILES



CHATAVIA GALLON

SOPHOMORE, NURSING

Q: Why did you want to be an RA?

A: I decided to become an RA because I love people and I knew that as a freshman, it was hard for me to figure out my place on campus so I wanted to help other freshmen with that."

Q: What do you enjoy most?

A: The job never stops. You never know what to expect, and there are a lot of surprises."

Q: Is this job difficult?

A: I think it's challenging, not difficult, but it's fun at the same time.

Q: What is the worst part?

A: The worst part is when you're asleep in your bed at 4 AM and someone is locked out of their room and you have to open their door for them. Other than that, everything is great.

Q: Do you like working with freshmen?

A: I love freshmen because I feel like everybody's new and they're just trying to figure out life, what they want to do, what their major should be. You learn a lot from them; it's a lot of us teaching them, but we learn a lot as well.

Q: What do you do outside of residence life?

A: I'm in Esteem Models, and we model and dance in the JMU community. I do CARE volunteering. I do a lot of studying and a lot of late nights at Carrier. I try to keep it limited because with this job, you can't do too much.



NATHANIEL MAYO

JUNIOR, HISTORY

Q: Why did you want to be an RA?

A: Originally it was so that I could develop my people skills, because I'm not exactly the most outspoken person and I thought that this would be a good job to work on that, and so far it has been.

Q: What do you enjoy most?

A: I really like my staff. They're all really fun and easy to get along with. From what I can tell, each residence hall staff tend to form their own community within the hall.

Q: Is this job difficult?

A: It can be. Sometimes residents will put you into a difficult situation because they think you're being a cool RA or that a friendship comes before the job, but really, when you're wearing the RA shirt you have to do RA duties.

Q: What is the worst part?

A: Writing people up. It's never fun. It's not a good experience for anyone.

Q: Does anything crazy ever happen?

A: In Chandler Hall, we have a group of students who do not mind being nude in the hallways. They throw apples against the walls and they smash into a million pieces and it's a pain to clean up.

Q: What do you like to do outside of residence life?

A: I have an internship at the Madison Art Collection. I do that for nine hours a week. I'm on the men's water polo team.



GENETA TRUMBO

HOUSEKEEPING

Q: How long have you been working for JMU?

A: 11 years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this job?

A: The kids. It's fun to see them mature. When they first come they're just little kids and then three or four months later, you can see them mature and become adults. It's really a rewarding thing to watch.

Q: What is the worst part of the job?

A: Cleaning the bathrooms.

Q: Do you get any free time or breaks?

A: It's an all day thing. You have to stay on schedule because you have so many things to do.

Q: Do you have any crazy stories?

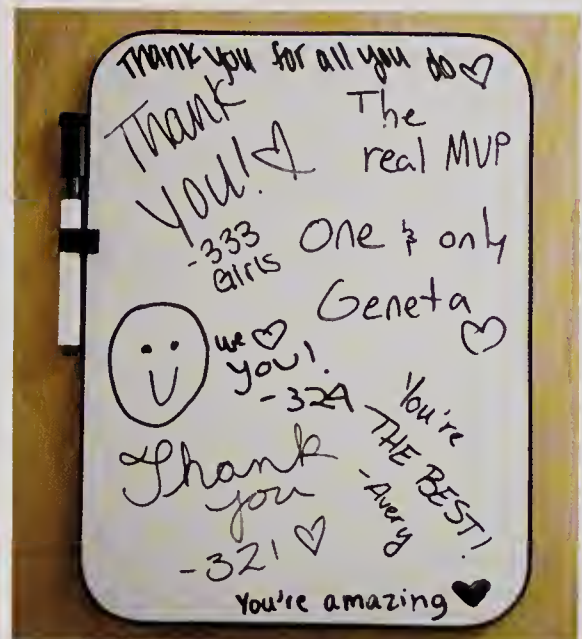
A: One year I went into the boys bathroom and I found a big tree branch stuck down the commode.

Q: What do you like to do outside of the job?

A: My husband's in a bluegrass band, so we do a lot of music through the summer. That's one of our hobbies. I like to go deer hunting and we go to a lot of sports events.

IT'S FUN TO SEE THEM MATURE

-GENETA TRUMBO



Opposite Left: Sophomore resident adviser Chatavia Gallon spends time in the RA office.

Opposite Right: Junior RA Nathaniel Mayo sits in front of an RA-designed message board in Chandler Hall.

Above Left: Geneta Trumbo, a member of JMU's housekeeping staff, smiles in the residence hall in which she works.

Above Right: A whiteboard filled with well-wishes from students honors Trumbo for her service to the residence hall.

WORDS: Sydney Kane

PHOTO: Sydney Kane

DESIGN: Breanna Young

MEET YOUR DRIVERS

TRANSIT EMPLOYEES EXPLAIN
THEIR LIVES ON THE ROAD



MICHAEL
CARPER

Hometown: Carper was a resident of Staunton, Virginia.

Routes: Carper drove a variety of routes.

Favorite Route: “[My favorite route is] route 14 because I get to interact with both sides of the city, from Memorial Hall to Aspen Heights.”

Radio Station: In the morning, Carper listened to WKCY-FM, 104.3 and “The Bobby Bones Show.” In the afternoon, he tuned in to WQPO-FM, 100.7.

Favorite Part of Driving: “Driving during graduation and getting to interact with students on their big day [is my favorite part of driving].”

Driving Tenure at JMU: Carper had been driving for JMU for three years.

What Drives You: “Coming to work every day and getting to help as many people as possible [drives me], whether it’s getting students to the off-campus stores and Wal-Mart or getting them to class on time.”

WORDS: Rebecca Reid

PHOTO: Sydney Kane

DESIGN: John Kelly



FRANK
NICHOLSON

Hometown: Nicholson was a resident of Elkton, Virginia.

Routes: Nicholson drove Route 7.

Favorite Route: “Route 7 [is my favorite]; I drive it every day. It goes from Southview, all the way through campus [and] up to Festival, so I see everybody, from freshmen to seniors.”

Radio Station: Nicholson listened to WKCY-FM, 104.3 and said that students enjoyed this station.

Best Memory: “The students who regularly ride my bus bring me a couple cases of beer at the end of the year, candy at Christmas and box of chocolates on Valentine’s Day. Even students that have moved to different apartments get on my bus and ride with me sometimes, just to say ‘hello.’”

Driving Tenure at JMU: Nicholson had been driving for JMU for 10 years.

What Drives You: “[What drives me] has to be the kids. I’m supposed to be retired, but that’s never going to happen; I like to be out doing things and seeing people.”

Hobbies: “When I’m not here, I’m working on my farm. I have cattle, pigs and chickens, and I grow crops like corn and soybeans, so there’s always something to be done.”



WELDON STROTHER

Hometown: Strother was a resident of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Routes: Strother drove the "Special" routes.

Favorite Route: "On-campus routes [are my favorite to drive] because I love working with the students."

Radio Station: Strother played WWRE-FM, 105.1 and WMXH-FM, 105.7 while driving.

Best Memory: "About 15 years ago, a student who wasn't paying attention opened his car door in front of my bus as I was passing by, and the door bent all the way back so it was touching the front left fender. No one got hurt, but it was crazy."

Driving Tenure at JMU: Strother had been driving for JMU for 30 years.

What Drives You: "One thing that motivates me is to get up and come to work because I enjoy my job. I've been here 30 years. I could retire right now, but my health is good, [and] I enjoy doing what I do, so, you know, why would I?"



DARRYLL FISHER

Hometown: Fisher was a resident of Mount Clinton, Virginia.

Routes: Fisher drove Route 15.

Favorite Route: "I like the off-campus routes the best; I've gotten to know all of the students over all the years."

Radio Station: Fisher listened to country music while driving.

Driving Tenure at JMU: Fisher had been driving for JMU for 15 years.

What Drives You: "I enjoy being out here around everybody and being able to accommodate the needs of the students."

Hobbies: "[I like] being outdoors and doing things around the house."



TRACEY CAPLINGER

Hometown: Caplinger was a resident of Elkton, Virginia.

Routes: Caplinger drove all routes.

Favorite Route: "I like Route 2, [which is] the city route. It's more laid back and calmer. I enjoy Route 18 as well [because] it's also a smooth route."

Radio Station: "I play [WWRE-FM], 105.1, the 'Old School Rewind,' and the students like it, which surprised me because these songs are from before they were even born. But they're singing along."

Driving Tenure at JMU: Caplinger had been driving for JMU for two years.

Favorite Part: Caplinger said that she enjoyed getting to know the regulars on her route.

Hobbies: "I like to work in my yard. I love flowers; I grow tulips, mums and roses."

What Drives You: "Working hard to pay off my house so I can go home and enjoy it [drives me]. Driving is definitely a task, but I hope I can hold [on to it] for many years to come."

KEEP ROLLIN'

STUDENTS CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION METHODS

Many students had a preferred method of traveling around campus, the most common of which were taking the bus, walking or riding a bike. However, skateboards and Heelys gave students alternatives for traveling between classes. Many students felt these forms of travel were a convenient and fun way to get around campus while getting some exercise.

Daniel Ginolfi, a 2016 graduate, was a skateboarder who had opted to use this mode of transportation on campus several times a week and believed that more people should take it up.

"[Skateboarding] takes people off the sidewalks, which are always really crowded, and going downhill is a lot of fun," Ginolfi said.

Along with skateboarding, some chose to use a form of transportation that, for many students, was a throwback to their elementary- and middle-school days: Heelys. These shoes with wheels in the heel had hit the market in 2000.

"I try to Heely occasionally," sophomore history major Breanna Brown said. "I can't wear them all the time because I have to walk with the peasants, too."

Brown had used Heelys since fifth grade.

"[I try to use Heelys] whenever the weather's nice and I'm going through the smooth parts of campus," Brown said. "It is so effective; we should bring it back."



Despite any stigma that surrounded using more outdated footwear, Brown said she enjoyed sporting her bright chrome Heelys.

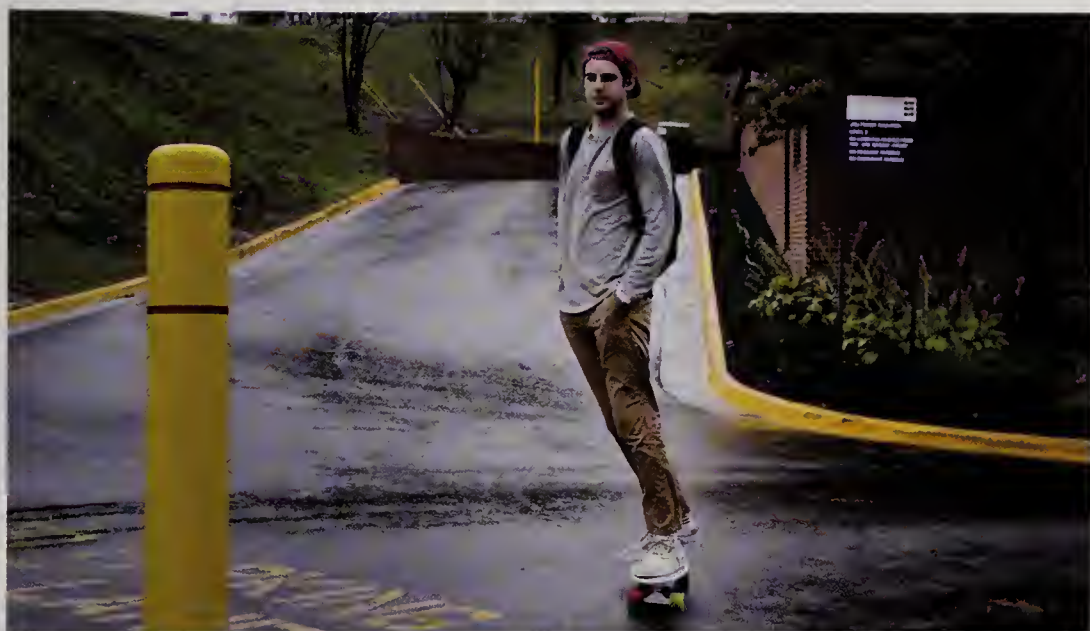
"It's fun because you can laugh at yourself," she said. "I know other people who like to Heely, and we can have fun together."

Many forms of transportation, such as Heelying, skateboarding and riding scooters, allowed students to travel around campus and get to class on time.

WORDS: Alexis Kubica

PHOTO: Julia Shawver

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



Above: Junior Devin Williams takes his colorful skateboard out for a ride. Many students chose unconventional modes of transportation to navigate JMU's campus.

Below: With his hands in his pockets, Williams cruises through campus.

ANYTHING IS **PAWS-IBLE**



PRE-VETERINARY SOCIETY SUPPORTS LOCAL ANIMALS

Many students who wished to benefit the lives of the world's creatures through veterinary work joined the pre-veterinary society. Helping animals of all kinds as a career was many members' passion.

"I just like the diversity and the activities that we do, as far as hearing from people who work as vets for the government, on farms, nonprofits and private practices," Mary Aland, a senior biology major and the club's secretary, said. "Being able to speak with practicing veterinarians teaches students in the club what different choices and career paths they have as future veterinarians."

The society became involved in the Harrisonburg community by working with local organizations, such as Anicira Veterinary Center. The Anicira Veterinary Center sent professionals in the field to talk to the club about different career options.

"Many students initially stick to one field before applying to vet school, such as horses

or domesticated animals, but it is essential to expand your experience so that you will stand out among the millions of other [prospective] vets applying to vet school," Sharon Swears, a senior biology major and the club's service chair, said.

The Pre-Veterinary Society sent student volunteers to serve at events, such as A Walk for the Animals with Anicira. This event raised money that helped Anicira care for animals in the Harrisonburg community and featured a one- or two-mile walk, food trucks and activities such as facepainting. Participating in this event seemed to further the Pre-Veterinary Society's goal of supporting local organizations that were dedicated to promoting the well-being of animals in need.

"This club has grown so much within the last year and will continue to grow and improve over the next couple of years," Swears said. "We are trying to create more

opportunities for these future vets so that they can expand their horizon as a pre-vet student and experience all the different fields."

Many members of the Pre-Veterinary Society appreciated the variety of activities in which the organization participated.

"I really like the [meetings] as well as the social events," Swears said. "For instance, we are currently planning to go to a vet symposium down in North Carolina in the spring, and it will be amazing."

Joining the Pre-Veterinary Society seemed to aid students in developing themselves professionally for their future careers.

WORDS: Kathleen Flowers

PHOTO: Courtesy of Bill Haynie and Shelby Pedigo

DESIGN: Diana Rivera



Left: Pre-Veterinary Society members Nicole Hoguet, Alexandria Pahides, Nicole Landry and Sharon Swears listen to a Wildlife Rehabilitator. The Pre-Veterinary Society engaged with the community to learn more about their prospective field.

Below: Bethany Esser tours at the Virginia Safari Park with other Pre-Veterinary Society participants.



Members of the Pre-Veterinary Society pose inside of an unfinished songbird enclosure during their Alternative Weekend Break spent volunteering for Wildlife Response Inc. The society participated in service events throughout the year.

THE FUTURE OF PRINTING

3-D PRINTING CLUB BRINGS THEORY TO FRUITION

The 3-D Printing Club at JMU sought to tap into the world of modern technology in order to make the theoretical a reality.

“The easiest way to describe [3-D printing] is ... a hot glue gun on a position system,” junior computer information systems major and technician Patrick Moran said.

Moran shared insight on the manner in which the printer could take a model designed on a computer and print a real-life version of that model.

“[The printer] cuts the model up into different layers [and] compiles it together, and then the printer just does its thing,” Moran said.

Using a heated nozzle, a positioning system and a variety of materials — a plastic filament being the most common — 3-D printers could take just about any computer-generated 3-D model and print it out, layer by layer. This process resulted in a solid object.

A device designed to print just about anything imaginable had a seemingly endless supply of applications. However, with inventions such as virtual reality and self-driving cars that seemed to overshadow these printing capabilities, the 3-D Printing

Club strove to bring its potential more to the forefront of the technological realm.

“Our [goal is] to make 3-D printing known,” senior intelligence analysis major and club president Robert Hedrick said. “I would like to kind of expose people to it and let them know about the different possibilities, but also just to get people talking [about 3-D printing].”

Hedrick had founded the club in 2014 as an end-of-the-year assignment for his 3-D printing lab, ISCI 104. The 3-D Printing Club was a new organization with many future possibilities.

“If you have the means to create something awesome, I feel like the sky’s the limit,” Hedrick said.

Whether printing with concrete to build walls or printing metal wings for jet planes, 3-D printers had a multitude of applications. For the 3-D Printing Club, this seemed to be just the beginning.

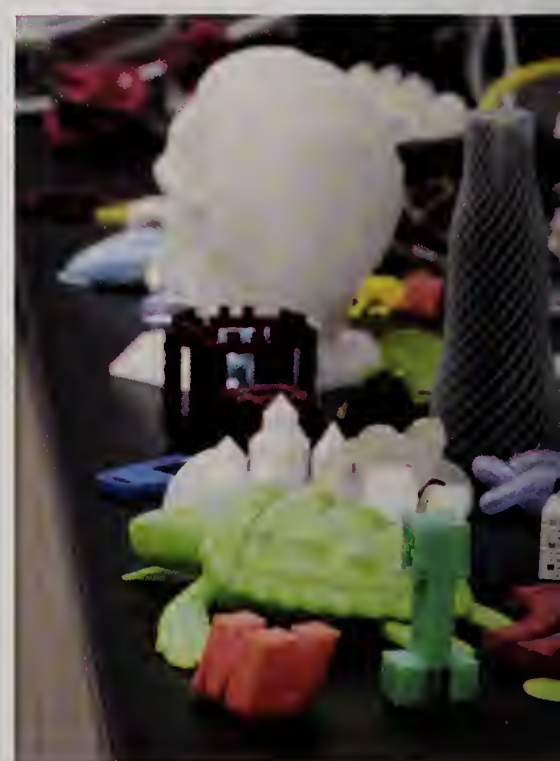
WORDS: Dominique Dean

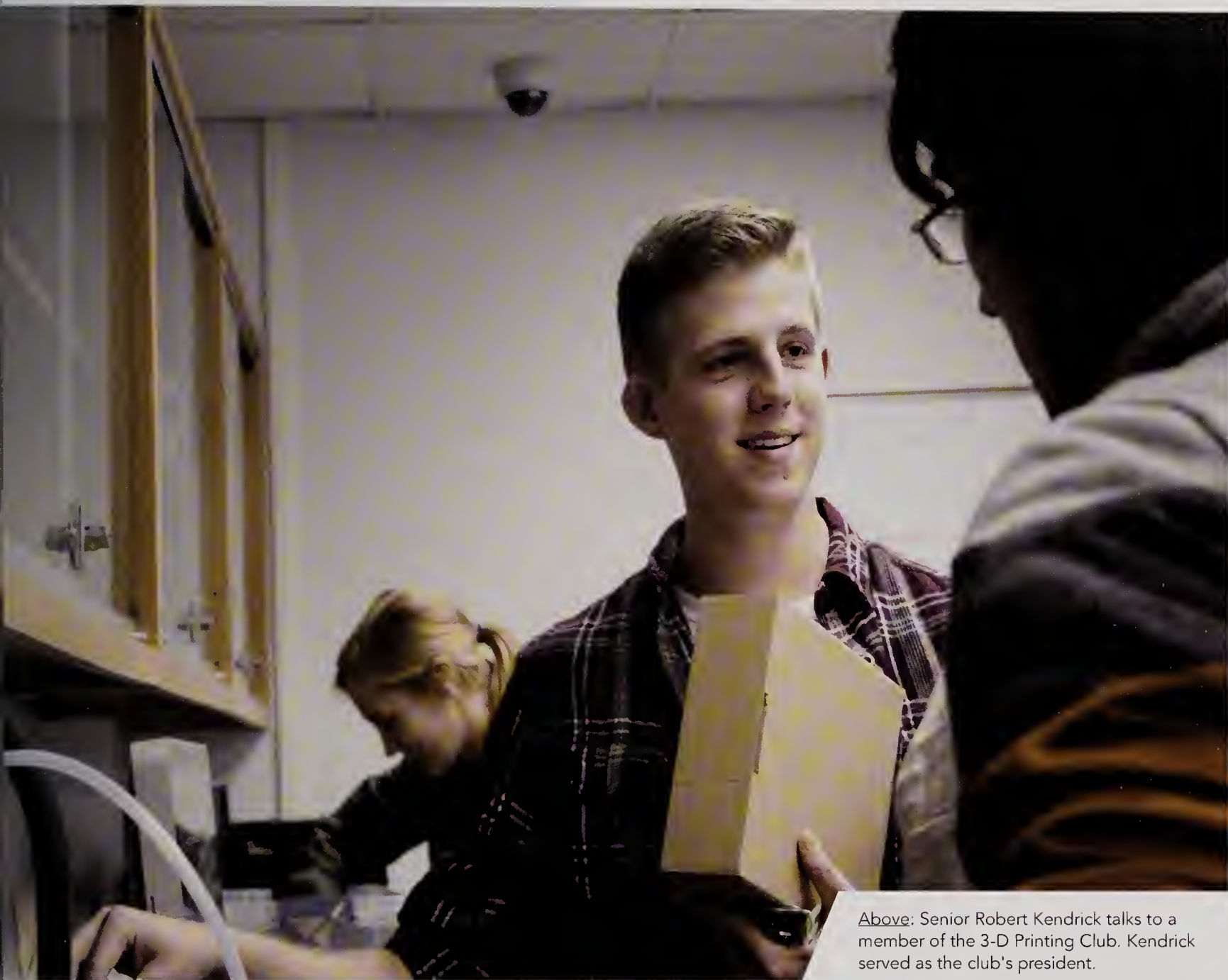
PHOTO: Ziyu Xu

DESIGN: Kenneth Basic

Opposite Left: Multicolored 3-D-printed objects, including a turtle and the New York Yankees logo, stand on display.

Opposite Right: A geometric shape rests among other objects that a 3-D printer had produced.





Above: Senior Robert Kendrick talks to a member of the 3-D Printing Club. Kendrick served as the club's president.





During the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation 5K, a group of students from the Students with Diabetes Club climb a hill together. The organization raised \$2,200 during the event.



DIABETES CLUB

STUDENTS SUPPORT TYPE 1 DIABETES RESEARCH

Each year, 200,000 cases of Type 1 diabetes were diagnosed in the U.S. Despite the prevalence of this disease, many people still did not know what Type 1 diabetes was or the impact it had on those with the illness.

Senior biology major Melissa Gray, the president of the Students with Diabetes Club, sought to change this lack of awareness.

The organization, which served as a support group for students affected by Type 1 diabetes, raised both awareness of the disease and money for research.

"We fundraise for [the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation], and we do a community outreach event called 'Life's Too Sweet,' which is a workshop for a brighter future with Type 1 diabetes," Gray said. "Last year, we had 70 people attend. It really reached the community; people came all the way from Richmond, Roanoke and Augusta Health."

On Oct. 2, the Students with Diabetes Club hosted a 5K event to raise money for the cause.

"We raised \$2,200 among our club," Gray said. "There is a lot of upcoming research and a lot of new technology coming out, so the more [money] we can raise, the better."

Like many other students, Gray had personal reasons concerning why she was involved in the organization.

"I've had [Type 1 diabetes] for 11 years," Gray said. "After I was diagnosed, I had some bad experiences with my doctors. A lot

of them didn't have [good] bedside manner or empathy."

Gray said that her early experiences after her diagnosis motivated her to pursue a job in the health field.

"I realized I wanted to be an endocrinologist, which is a diabetes doctor, and be able to [tell my patients] that I do understand," Gray said. "I want to be able to support the families because [Type 1 diabetes] affects the whole family, and not a lot of people realize that."

Members of the Students with Diabetes Club believed that spreading awareness of diabetes was an important mission.

"Not a lot of people know about Type 1 diabetes," Gray said. "They only know about Type 2, so it's really important in our club to educate people on the difference. People don't realize how much it takes over your whole life and how much of a struggle it is to live with [the disease]."

The Students with Diabetes Club sought to augment the JMU community's understanding of Type 1 diabetes so as to move toward a world without the illness.

WORDS: Alexis Kubica

PHOTO: Marissa Scholler

DESIGN: Madison Ebbert

The Need for SPEED

MADISON MOTORSPORTS PROMOTES SAFETY AND PASSION FOR CARS

Automobiles had fascinated many Americans since they were invented, giving people the ability to travel long distances, maintain their independence and experience higher speeds. A hunger for reaching top velocity was eventually manifested in the popular car-racing sport NASCAR, as well as in the development of car shows and clubs. At JMU, Madison Motorsports was geared toward students who loved cars and hitting top speeds.

One of the organization's top priorities was keeping drivers safe. Throughout the year, Madison Motorsports gave lectures on car safety and driving.

"We'll have impromptu cruises where we drive over the mountains and back," Taylor Johnson, a senior computer science major and the club's president, said. "It's a good way to teach people how to drive on hazardous roads safely. We'll have lectures on autocross, and we have days where we'll teach new members ... how to work on cars."

Club members showcased their love of cars not only by teaching others, but also through various events, such as autocross, go-kart driving and a car show.

James Lowther, a junior sport and recreation management and the club's vice president, described autocross and Madison Motorsports' interactions with other car clubs in the area as a partnership.

"We put on a college solo," Lowther said. "We invited everybody we could, and [we tried] to get a bunch of college students out to participate in a sporting event [in] a safe environment in a parking lot full of cones."

Driving go-karts was another activity that the club sponsored. According to Johnson, alumni came back and competed with current club members during this event.

"We have one guy that started racing [at a young age], so he's been racing for 20 years now, and he blows us away," Taylor said.

The third main event that Madison Motorsports organized was their car show. This was their main spring event, for which the club reserved a parking lot at JMU to showcase an array of cars.

"We invite people from all around," Taylor said. "The car club from Virginia Tech is kind of our sister club, so they are very active in it, too. Last year, we had 152 cars show up and had prizes and games, and it's a really cool way to get the car culture on campus."

Madison Motorsports got its members involved with cars throughout the year. Even if students knew nothing about motor vehicles, club members, alumni and guests taught anyone interested so that they could take to the road with speed, safety and determination.

WORDS: Raja Abdul-Badee

PHOTO: Brady Thomas

DESIGN: China Boynes and John Kelly



Senior Tyler Holt leans against his Scion TC.



The club's faculty adviser Kevin Borg and junior Samuel Schaidhammer discuss the various cars Borg owned over the years.



Club members gather in front of their vehicles in the Warsaw Avenue Parking Deck. A passion for cars brought these individuals together.



KIDS KLUB

JMU STUDENTS BUILD LASTING BONDS WITH LOCAL YOUTH

JMU students involved in the Kids Klub were advocates for positive change by volunteering their time to mentor Harrisonburg's next generation.

"Kids Klub is all about bonding with the kids of the community and giving them tons of opportunities to have fun," freshman physics major Piper Smith said. "We provide them with a different type of interaction than what they would normally get."

Kids Klub student volunteers worked with children attending Spotswood Elementary School in the Harrisonburg community. Many students chose to participate because they believed that building these relationships not only benefitted children's lives, but also impacted the future of Harrisonburg by including JMU students in the community.

"I was inspired to be in the club because not only do I want to be a teacher,

but I was involved with kids throughout my high school years as a soccer coach, and I knew I wanted to keep interacting with children when I came to college," Smith said. "Those relationships really teach me so much and inspire me. For me, there wasn't a better place for that than Kids Klub."

With approximately 70 volunteers, running the organization required responsibility and commitment from club leadership. The passion from the organization's executive members helped the program run smoothly.

"I wanted a leadership position because ... Kids Klub was something I got very involved in immediately after coming to JMU," Autumn Cox, club president and junior communication studies major, said. "I became [vice president] my sophomore year, so it seemed natural to take on president this year."

For some members, the value in working with Spotswood Elementary School came from the bonds they formed with the children and teachers with whom they collaborated.

"The best experience I've had with Kids Klub is when, after break, I showed [up] for tutoring and one of the girls I always help out called out my name, ran up to me and hugged me," Smith said. "It just helped me to see that we really do leave an impression on these kids."

Taking steps to educate the next generation in Harrisonburg seemed to be important for the future of the community and its inhabitants. Because of the dedication, altruism and work ethic of students in Kids Klub, JMU took part in improving the lives of local children.

WORDS: Kathleen Flowers

PHOTO: Kaleigh Smith

DESIGN: Alexandra Rathjens



Above: Freshman Cortni Potts sorts through JMU Kids Klub shirts. The organization volunteered with local children at Spotswood Elementary School. Opposite: Junior Autumn Cox speaks to club members during a meeting. Cox served as the club's president.

C.A.R.E.

CAMPUS ASSAULT RESPONSE SUPPORTS STUDENTS IN NEED

JMU's Campus Assault ResponseE, or C.A.R.E., was a campus organization designed to help combat sexual assault at universities. C.A.R.E. members responded to those who had experienced sexual assault or intimate partner violence and helped students distinguish between beneficial and unhealthy relationships.

"C.A.R.E. helps survivors know that there is no single narrative on how to heal as a survivor and that there is a community of people dedicated to supporting them on whatever path they choose to take," club president and senior media arts and design major Jessica Garcia said.

The organization provided a confidential, anonymous 24/7 phone service while school was in session. The service was available to anyone who needed assistance concerning a sexual assault.

"Not a day goes by where I don't think about the survivors I've crossed paths with and how their bravery encourages me to continue to be brave with them," Garcia said. "I hope survivors can take away a sense of solidarity from other students and know that their peers support them."

Along with its phone service, C.A.R.E. also provided two informational presentations,

"Conversations with C.A.R.E." and "Intimate Partner Violence." "Conversations with C.A.R.E." educated participants and dispelled misconceptions regarding sexual assault and provided resources to those affected. "Intimate Partner Violence" discussed the qualities of beneficial relationships, the dangers and warning signs of unhealthy relationships, and how to support people who had faced intimate partner violence.

"I think all of JMU's community members can learn how we can better support each other as well as create a campus free of violence together," Garcia said.

C.A.R.E. participants hoped that this organization would bring hope to those whom sexual assault had affected.

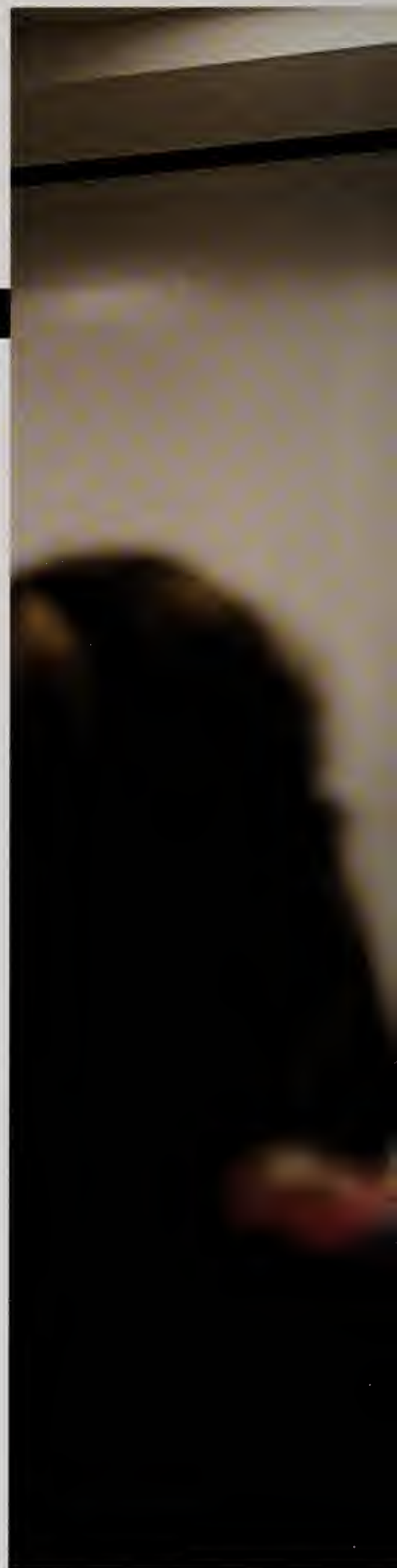
"We can't always promise when and if things will get better, but we want survivors to know that they matter and that we're here for them every step of the way," Garcia said.

C.A.R.E. members worked around the clock to move toward a campus without sexual violence.

WORDS: Leah Onderdonk

PHOTO: Sydney Kane

DESIGN: Casey Dwyer



Senior Alexandra Weathersby listens to group members as they discuss the aspects of healthy relationships. C.A.R.E. members gave presentations to educate students about sexual assault and intimate partner violence.



ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

CAMPUS ORGANIZATION PROMOTES WOMEN IN S.T.E.M. FIELDS

Many found it important to find ways to support women's success in academics. To this end, JMU's Association for Women in Mathematics was geared toward recognizing women who excelled in the mathematical field.

"The Association for Women in Mathematics strives to encourage women and girls to get involved in mathematical sciences and pursue careers in [Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics] fields," senior mathematics major and club president Dylana Wilhelm said.

There were often stereotypes that assumed women were not as proficient in mathematics as were men, but club members sought to combat this idea.

"A lot of people automatically assume that being a woman in math means that you're probably going to be a teacher," senior mathematics major and club vice president and treasurer Eliza Leehan said. "When it comes down to it, math is about analytics and it's about solving problems, and having that skill is ... very desired in multiple different workplaces."

Often, it could be discouraging for women to try to excel in mathematical careers when facing so many roadblocks.

"The reason that we wanted to get it started was, of course, because it's good to encourage women to participate in S.T.E.M. fields, [and] in particular, mathematics," senior mathematics major and club founder Jonathan Gerhardt said.

In addition to empowering women at JMU, the Association for Women in Mathematics also reached out to local middle schools in order to inspire girls to strive for success in S.T.E.M.

"A girl that recently started college and is now an engineering major ... said that she would never have done that if she didn't attend [the middle school] program," Wilhelm said.

The program's purpose was to give girls the opportunity to look up to older female mentors and feel empowered to pursue a love for mathematics from a young age.

"It is technically a male-dominated field, but it shouldn't be," Leehan said. "If you

can succeed in math and science, you should pursue a career in it, if that's what you desire."

Many members believed that it was helpful when women weren't the only ones motivating other women.

"We're also encouraged by men," Wilhelm said. "It's a very gender-inclusive major ... all about building people up. [It] doesn't matter what the situation is, but we want everyone to succeed."

Gerhardt also believed that JMU was a place where women in the mathematics major could seek support.

"JMU is fairly encouraging of women in mathematics, and so this seems [to be] just kind of another good step forward to continue encouraging women," Gerhardt said.

The members of the Association for Women in Mathematics worked toward their goal of disproving stereotypes about women's abilities by encouraging one woman at a time.

WORDS: Andrianna Boykin

PHOTO: Madison Ebbert

DESIGN: Alexandra Orndahl





Above: Associate professor of mathematics Minah Oh addresses members of the Association for Women in Mathematics in an effort to motivate women in the S.T.E.M. realm. The organization supported the involvement of women in mathematically oriented fields.
Opposite Left: Associate professor of mathematics Nusrat Jahan speaks before an audience of club participants.
Opposite Right: Members of the Association for Women in Mathematics attend a club meeting.

9/11

MEMORIAL

THE STUDENT VETERAN ASSOCIATION REMEMBERS 9/11

Many Americans remembered exactly where they were and what they were doing on Sept. 11, 2001. Some remembered being at work, others at school and still others at home, watching the news on television.

Fifteen years later, the event was still fresh in the minds of many in the nation. The terrorist attacks in New York City, the District of Columbia and Pennsylvania left a significant impact on most citizens' lives across the country. For many, 9/11 was a day that would never be forgotten.

On Sept. 10, 2016, the Student Veteran Association held a 5K race in honor of the 15th anniversary of 9/11.

"This 5K served a lot of different purposes," senior political science major and SVA president JJ Bennett said. "It was a great way to memorialize the tragedy of 9/11. It helped raise money to fund the Student Veteran Association, and it assisted the veterans and victims of 9/11."

According to senior psychology major and SVA vice president Clinton Roberts, the anniversary was a beautiful day.

"There was a clear, blue sky and no clouds in sight, and no rain for once," Roberts said. "It was a wonderful day with a wonderful turnout."

Many participants wanted to honor those whom 9/11 affected, and the temperate weather seemed to draw an even larger crowd to the event.

"The number of participants this year was incredible," Bennett said. "Compared to the last two years, it was a very large increase. I think that many people came out partially because it was such a beautiful day."

The large turnout demonstrated how significant that fateful day still was, even 15 years later. Participants in the race helped to honor the heroes and victims of this tragedy.

"This event would not have been nearly as successful if it [weren't] for all of the participants, the other members of the Student Veteran Association and our adviser, Dr. Jennifer Taylor," Roberts said. "All of these people made this 5K a huge success."

In paying tribute to Sept. 11, 2001, the SVA seemed to demonstrate that even 15 years later, students still worked to hold to the highest esteem those who lost their lives during or were affected by this national tragedy.

WORDS: Madison Rugguri

PHOTO: Courtesy of Clinton Roberts

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



A runner smiles as she participates in the Student Veteran Association's 9/11 5K. The race raised funds to aid those whom 9/11 had affected.





Participants stand at the starting line before the Student Veteran Association's 9/11 5K. The SVA hoped to honor the victims of 9/11 through this event, which was held on Sept. 10.

CANAAN SMITH

FALL CONCERT BRINGS COUNTRY MUSIC TO THE STAGE

To kick off the fall semester, the University Program Board brought country singer and former Duke Canaan Smith to the Wilson Hall stage. Smith was best known for his 2014 hit, “Love You Like That.” The show opened with Cody Purvis, an up-and-coming country singer from Charlottesville.

Excitement in the room seemed to grow as the seats filled and concertgoers met up with friends and fellow country music fans. Numerous students were able to stand in front of the stage as part of the pit, experiencing Smith in a more personal manner during the concert. The lights came down at 8 p.m., and Purvis took the stage to begin the show.

“I was really excited to be able to come to the concert tonight with my suitemates because it let us have a fun night together as a reward for making it through our first few weeks of college,” freshman social work major Abigail Bittner said.

After Purvis finished his set, the stage went dark and crew members began rearranging instruments and lights for Smith. During the intermission, concertgoers talked and introduced themselves to one another to make the break go by more quickly. Once the stage was set, the crowd settled back into their places. Smith then appeared before the audience, who welcomed him with cheers from throughout the venue.

As Smith progressed through his set, the energy of the room seemed to increase with each song he performed. Halfway through the show, the country artist took a break to tell the story of his late brother. Throughout the story, there seemed to be a collective stillness in the

room. Smith then performed a song called “Bronco” that he had written for his brother.

Soon after, Smith brought energy back to the concert by announcing that during the last song of the night, he would smash a drum that would later be auctioned off at the merchandise table, the proceeds of which would go toward cancer research. He called that section of the night “Smashing Cancer.”

“It was really great to attend a concert with my friends and see an artist care so much about a cause [that he would] devote part of his concerts to raising money for that cause,” freshman nursing major Olivia Imre said.

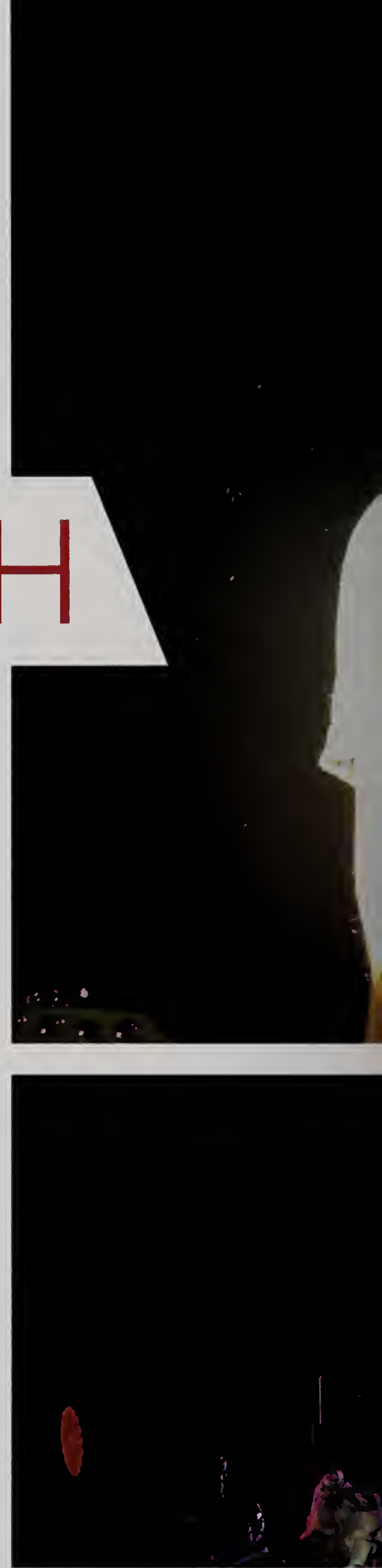
While his band members played on in encouragement, Smith took a pair of drumsticks and pounded different beats against the drum head before flinging the sticks into the audience for someone to catch. Then, as the crowd cheered him on, Smith took a sledgehammer and rhythmically slammed into the instrument, until it was broken and ready to be auctioned off after the show.

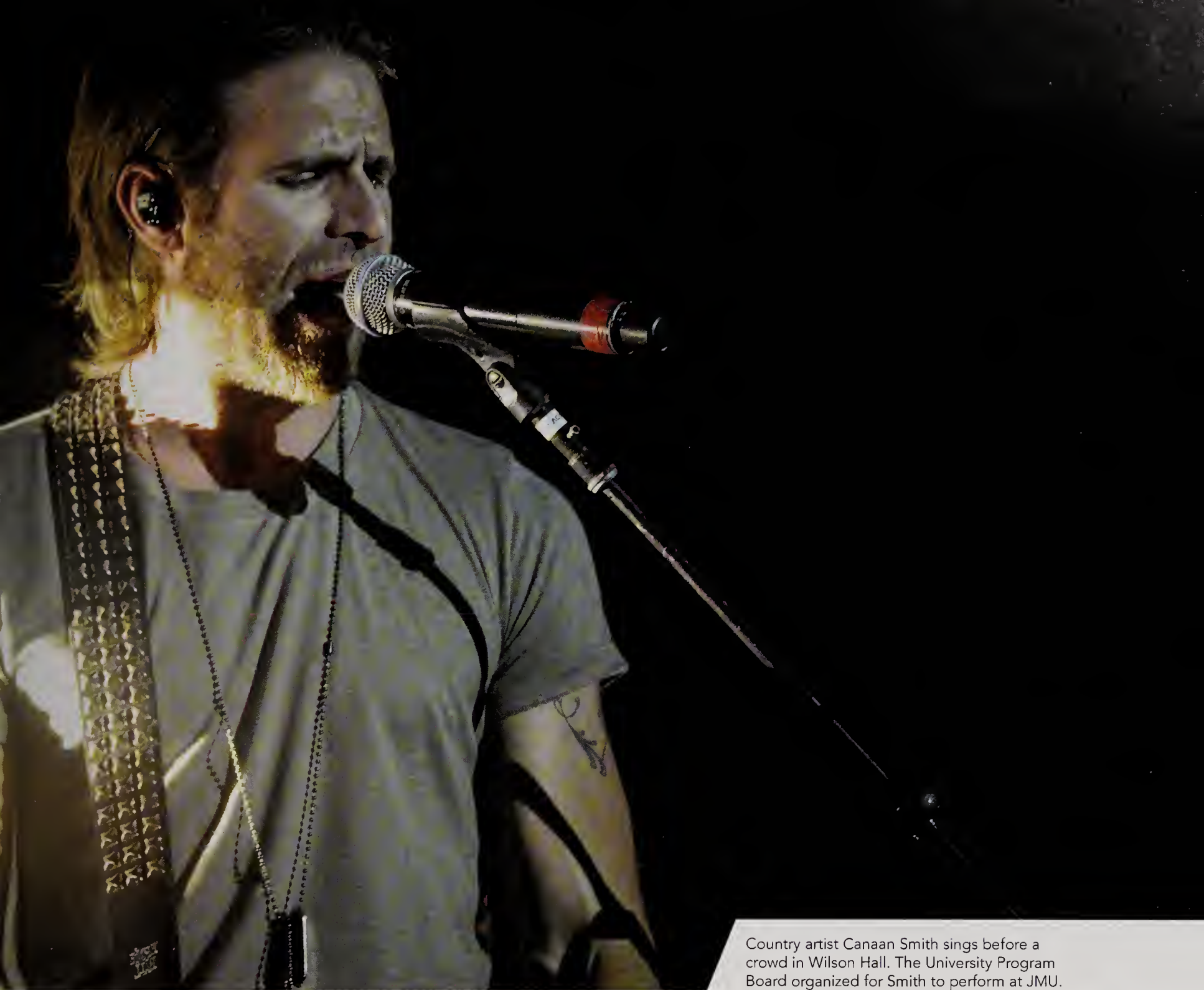
Before a buzzing crowd, Smith grabbed the microphone to close out the night with the hit “Love You Like That,” dancing his way through the aisles, standing on seats and giving out high-fives. After the lights died down and Wilson cleared out, concertgoers seemed to carry the show’s energy with them as they went back out into the autumn air.

WORDS: Nakayla Irvin

PHOTO: Kaleigh Smith

DESIGN: Kathryn Magnier





Country artist Canaan Smith sings before a crowd in Wilson Hall. The University Program Board organized for Smith to perform at JMU.



FALL IN THE 'BURG



Above: Transitioning leaves envelop Wilson Hall. The changing of the seasons often corresponded with the beginning of the new semester.

Below Left: A student's pet pig, Wylie, explores his fall surroundings on the Quad.

Below Middle: Fall leaves blanket the grass of the Quad.

Opposite Right: A tree on campus is bedecked in orange during autumn.





AUTUMN BRINGS CHANGE TO CAMPUS

The transition from summer to autumn at JMU was often a reflection of the greater transition taking place on campus. Set to the chorus of the birds' songs of farewell before the impending winter, students' journeys at JMU continued with the start of the new academic year. Whether returning to campus or beginning classes for the first time, many students embraced the changing of the seasons beneath a canopy of fire-red trees, prepared to begin the semester.

WORDS: Giuliana Macaluso

PHOTO: Catherine Burch
and DePaul Straub

DESIGN: Ingrid Basheda

FURIOUS FLOWER

POETRY CENTER HONORS MAYA ANGELOU

In September 2016, the Furious Flower Poetry Center hosted two events to honor late poet and author Maya Angelou. The first event was a panel titled, “Maya Angelou: Literature that Travels,” and included readings of Angelou’s poetry and a discussion about her impact on American culture and Africa’s influence on her work.

The panel included presentations about Angelou’s life and experiences from Furious Flower directors Joanne Gabbin, Mollie Godfrey and Brilliant Muhonja. Prize-winning poet and assistant director Lauren Alleyne recited all poems, and Sheryl Gifford, of Florida Atlantic University, served as the event’s moderator.

“It struck me when I was doing research how significant [Angelou’s] work was on American literature and how many people are influenced by it and continue to be,” Gifford said.

The panel helped Chloe Jenkins, a sophomore health sciences major, gain a better understanding of Angelou as a person and a writer.

“[‘I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings’] had been censored in my school system, so after Dr. Godfrey’s talk, I really want to read it,” Jenkins said.

The second event, titled, “Throw Your Head Back and Sing: A Tribute to Maya Angelou,” was held at the Forbes Center on Sept. 29. It featured poetry readings and speeches, as well as musical performances honoring Angelou.

“[The tribute was] absolutely stunning and very soulful,” junior music major Raiquan Thomas said. “It brings awareness of what African-Americans went through and what

African-Americans are currently going through today. I think we as humans are scared to embrace different cultures, and we need to better attach ourselves and initiate conversation between different cultures.”

The tribute addressed the importance of Angelou’s literature, specifically emphasizing that it needed to be continually propagated rather than censored.

“[Angelou’s] work should be shared because it talks about a very sensitive time in American history that a lot of people don’t talk about and that we only hear about from a textbook,” senior health sciences major Brianna Weldon said. “It can give us more guidance concerning what we need to do ... to make society more equal. It sometimes is washed over, and you’re not getting what someone actually experienced and thinks about that time period.”

Joyce Anderson, the mid-Atlantic regional director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. — of which Angelou was an honorary member — gave remarks during the ceremony. President Jonathan R. Alger also spoke during the event.

“It brought the community together, and it reminded everyone that we can be strong together, like President Alger said in his speech,” senior health sciences major Mikayla Moore said.

Although Angelou had passed away in 2014, her legacy seemed to carry on through the words she wrote and the impact she had on the world.

WORDS: Leah Onderdonk

PHOTO: University Unions Technology and Design

DESIGN: Kenneth Basic



Singers pay tribute to Maya Angelou through a performance called "Throw Your Head Back and Sing." This segment was part of the Furious Flower Poetry Center's organized effort to showcase Angelou's work.



THE FRONT IS BACK

CARRIER LIBRARY REOPENS THE FRONT DOORS

Since it had opened in 1939 under the name “Madison Memorial Library,” many students had considered Carrier Library to be an integral part of life at JMU. In the fall of 2016, the entrance to Carrier facing the Centennial Fountain reopened. University authorities moved to reinstate this entrance 34 years after it had closed in 1982, a decision that at once invited tradition to return to JMU and emphasized the importance of new technology. Although the entrance was originally closed due to a lack of security and staff, recent additions of a 3-D printer, virtual reality lab and advanced computer labs prompted JMU leadership to allow students to enter the library through these doors once more.

WORDS: Giuliana Macaluso

PHOTO: Hannah Adams

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



Sunlight beams down upon the original entrance to Carrier Library. This entrance was reopened in 2016 after being closed for 34 years.

FAMILY WEEKEND

PURPLE AND GOLD DECORATE CAMPUS ON FAMILY WEEKEND

From Sept. 30 through Oct. 2, campus was filled with parents, siblings and other family members for JMU's annual Family Weekend. Besides cheering on the Dukes at the football game against the University of Delaware, which JMU won 43-20, many students made their own plans to spend time with loved ones during the weekend.

"We looked at apartments, and we went out to dinner," freshman nursing major Emma Oliver said. "We went shopping because I wanted more JMU [paraphernalia]."

Families who came to visit their Dukes engaged in a variety of activities.

"I just wanted to have fun with [my family]," freshman nursing major Madison McGrath said. "We tailgated, went to the football game [and] went to dinner, and the next day we went to [a] museum in Staunton."

While some students brought family members to campus, others explored Harrisonburg off campus instead.

"[My dad and I] went to [Virginia's] Natural Bridge Park and went to some caverns," freshman geology major Allyson Butler said.

Despite the increased activity and crowded off-campus restaurants that came with Family Weekend, many students felt that the event was one to remember. With all the families that came to and from JMU during the weekend, stories from home abounded.

"My brother just bought a rooster, and it was really mean, and my parents couldn't do anything about it because they were on vacation," Oliver said. "So my parents came home and bought a bunch of chickens. ... Now we say [my dad] loves [the chickens] more than us."

Having family members on campus also allowed new memories to be created in and around Harrisonburg.

"My dad loves to take selfies of us, and [while at the museum in Staunton], he went to take a selfie, and this bug flew and hit him in the face while he was taking the picture," McGrath said. "He looked normal, but my brothers in the background were laughing so hard."

For some students, having their families in town also meant reminiscing about inside jokes.

"There's a running joke with my dad: My grandparents have a blue car, and he always says it's green, so we claim things are blue or green when they're not," freshman health sciences major Sydney Williams said.

Many students felt that Family Weekend was a time to reflect on their relationships with their loved ones, to create new memories and allow their families to join in with the Duke community.

WORDS: Alexis Kubica

PHOTO: John Kelly

DESIGN: Hayley Verdeyen

Freshman Nina Lopez poses with her family in front of the Duke Dog statue during Family Weekend. Many students spent time with their loved ones during this event.





CYBER

DEFENSE CLUB

CLUB OFFERS WORKSHOPS AND FOCUSES ON SECURITY

Upon entering the Cyber Defense Club, prospective members were not expected to know everything about defending technology against hackers. Rather, interested students gained skills during workshops that club leaders taught during meetings. The organization viewed these lessons as necessary building blocks to gain experience in the field.

Computer science graduate student and club vice president Matthew Jackson wanted members to gain an understanding of cyber defense that they could use in the future.

"If nothing else, [I hope that members] take away that everything is always evolving and it's always going to be changing," Jackson said. "The only way to stay on top of it is to keep learning and to keep moving forward and look at what's in the future, as well as what's happening right now."

The technology field advanced tremendously since the early 2000s, and with this growth came a greater need for cyber security. In order to hone and display their skills, chosen members of the club participated in competitions, such as the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.

"It's essentially a competition of teams," Jackson said. "[The event organizers] give

us some of the world's best hackers, and they come and attack us, and we try to defend usually outdated and [poorly] secured systems."

Nicole Williamson, a junior computer information systems major, heard about the organization during 1787 August Orientation. Despite being new to the organization, she saw it as great preparation for a future job in network security and cyber defense.

"I think they show some real-world [material] that we could apply to either an interview or when we actually get a job," Williamson said.

While some club members were knowledgeable in the ways of cyber defense, the club did not exclude novices or students in other majors who wanted to learn the ropes.

"The more you come, the more you learn," faculty adviser M. Hossain Heydari said. "It's good for the nation."

In a world where technology appeared to be always evolving, the Cyber Defense Club seemed to hold an even more important position on JMU's campus.

WORDS: Hayley Verdeyen

PHOTO: Laura VanDemark

DESIGN: Alexandra Rathjens

Right: Graduate student Nick McDonnell (left) and Cyber Defense Club faculty adviser M. Hossain Heydari (right) lead a session on cyber defense. The organization focused on learning via workshops.

Opposite: Senior Pavan Gudimetta (left) and junior Zamua Nasrawt collaborate during a Cyber Defense Club meeting.





FUNNY

FREAKIN' FRIDAY

STUDENTS WATCH COMEDIC PERFORMERS IN TAYLOR DOWN UNDER

On the first Friday of each month, the University Program Board hosted Funny Freakin' Friday, a comedy show in Taylor Down Under.

Leigh Harmer, a senior majoring in French and English, was a member of UPB's Spirit and Traditions committee, which put Funny Freakin' Friday together. The detailed process of preparing for a show called for hard work from all committee members.

"We have researchers look into small comedians through a third party website, and then we find one that's funny, appropriate and in our price range," Harmer said. "From there, we have a couple options and the committee votes on which one they like the best."

On Sept. 30, the University Program Board featured comedian Adam Lee, who came to tell jokes and entertain the crowd. The event aimed to get attendees laughing and having a good time.

"Laughing is the best medicine ever," junior psychology major Rachel Grenz said. "I forget all about my horrible day, and just a good laugh fixes everything."

UPB specifically planned these events with the preferences of student attendees

in mind by including student committee members in a majority of the planning.

"I think it's just really important to involve students in that kind of thing because when we have adults [doing the] planning, especially at college, it kind of takes away part of that experience for students," junior interdisciplinary liberal studies major Samantha Lane said.

Some students used Funny Freakin' Friday as a means to escape from the demands and pressures of the classroom. This night gave attendees a chance to take a break and relax for an hour or two.

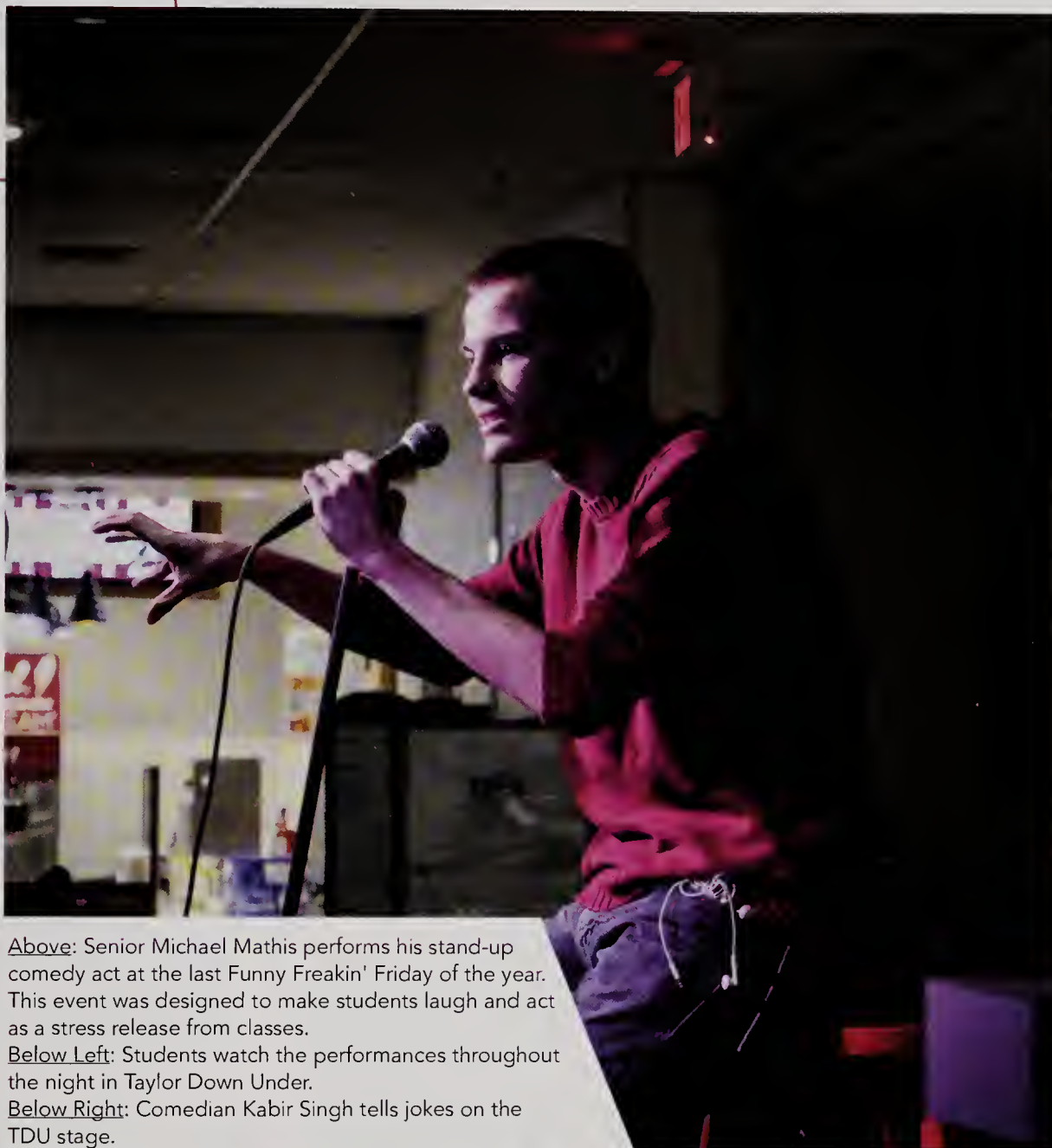
"I was in the library for six hours today, and this was my [time to] decompress," Lane said.

At the start of each new month, Funny Freakin' Friday gave students and comedy lovers alike the opportunity to check out a variety of comedians that were brought to campus and start their weekend with a laugh.

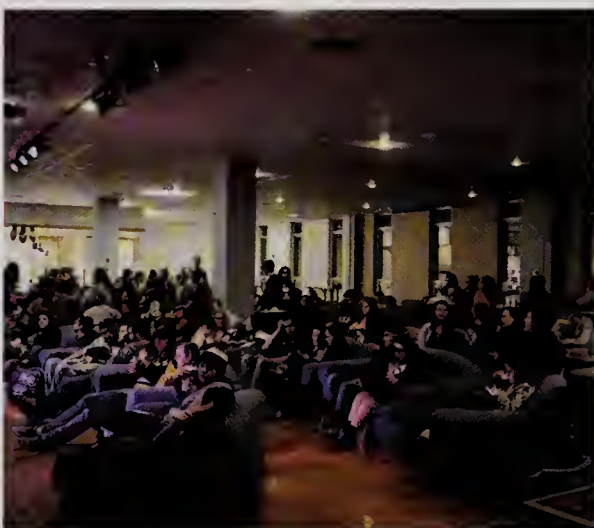
WORDS: Andrianna Boykin

PHOTO: Kayla Medina

DESIGN: Ingrid Basheda



Above: Senior Michael Mathis performs his stand-up comedy act at the last Funny Freakin' Friday of the year. This event was designed to make students laugh and act as a stress release from classes.
Below Left: Students watch the performances throughout the night in Taylor Down Under.
Below Right: Comedian Kabir Singh tells jokes on the TDU stage.



Flula BORG

YOUTUBE COMEDIAN COMES TO CAMPUS

Rising German YouTube star Flula Borg was the University Program Board's 2016 fall comedian. Borg had played the antagonist in the 2015 film "Pitch Perfect 2" and was chosen as one of "Variety" magazine's "10 Comics to Watch in 2015."

On Oct. 21, Borg came to the "Hall of Wilson," as he had called JMU's Wilson Hall via his Twitter account, and provided entertainment to those in attendance.

"I didn't really know who [Borg] was at first until ... he mentioned he was in 'Pitch Perfect,'" Demetri Beard, a senior geographic science major, said. "It was really interesting. I wasn't really sure what to expect ... but it was really funny."



Borg utilized his skills as a DJ to make the audience laugh. While onstage, he even wrote a song for JMU.

"This is a poem ... a sonar poem, a sound poem, a sound bath about your school," Borg said to the audience before beginning the song he made up on the spot.

The song consisted of beatboxing and a variety of words attributed to JMU.

"Thank you very much; this song is available immediately on Spotify," Borg said jokingly to the audience after the performance.

Following the show, some students got the chance to meet and take a photo with the comedian.

"He seemed very nice [when we met him]," Alexandra Riddell, a sophomore history major, said. "He was still as outgoing as he was on the stage."

Colleen Lewis, a sophomore geographic science major, thought it was important for comedians to come and perform on campus.

"It gives college students a little thing to do on a Friday night if they aren't into partying," Lewis said.

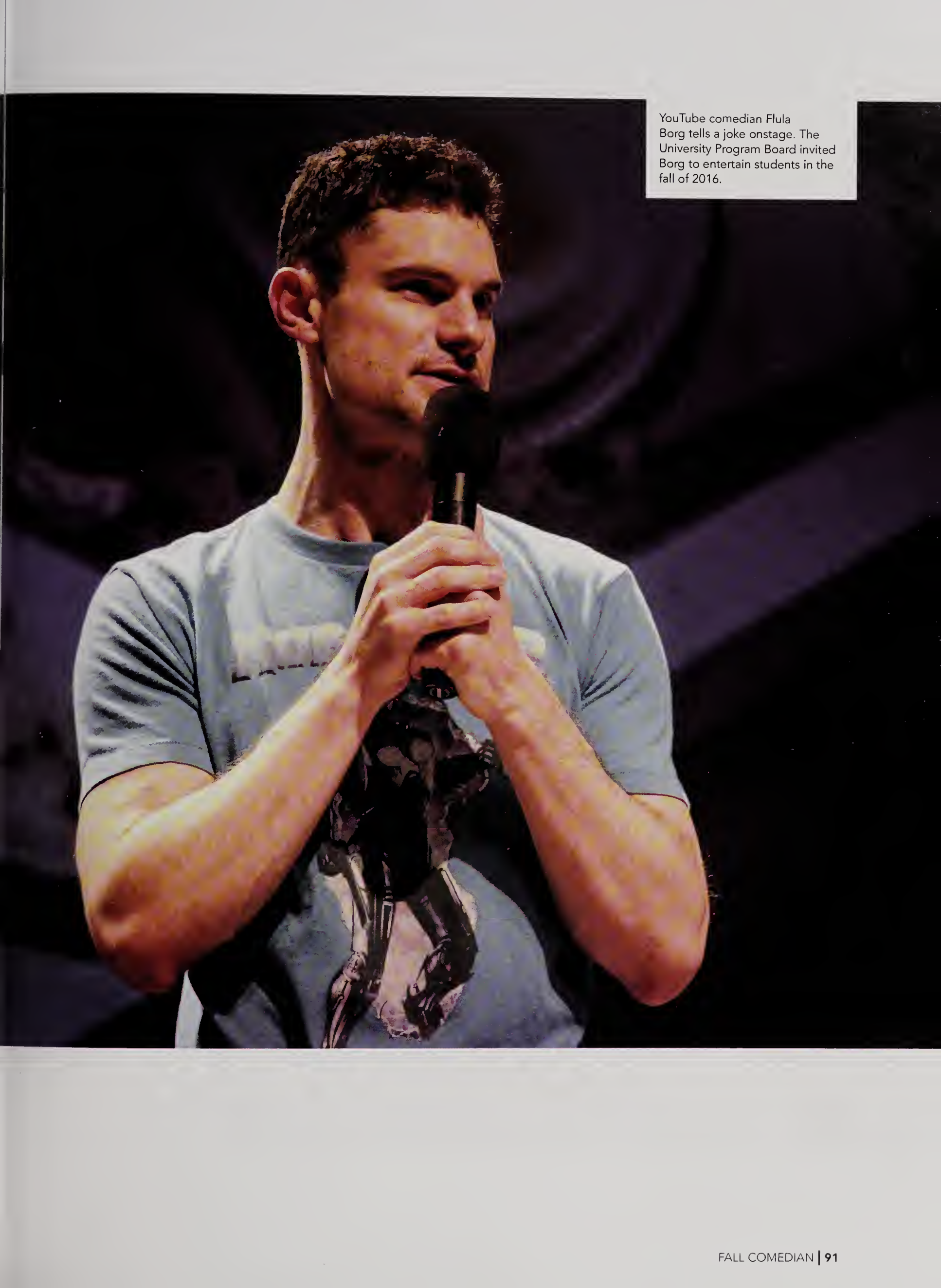
Flula Borg seemed to bring a fresh take on comedy to Wilson Hall, putting on a performance JMU students were likely to remember for years to come.

WORDS: John Kelly

PHOTO: Dominique Dean

DESIGN: Kathryn Magnier

Comedian Flula Borg's laptop rests upon a platform on the Wilson Hall stage. Borg used the computer to play a song that he had written during the show.



YouTube comedian Flula Borg tells a joke onstage. The University Program Board invited Borg to entertain students in the fall of 2016.



Above and Opposite Right: New head football coach Michael Houston stands on the Zane Showker Field after joining the football coaching staff for the 2016 season. Houston had gained 10 years of coaching experience prior to leading the Dukes.
Below: With their gold helmets gleaming, the Dukes get set at the line of scrimmage.





THE NEW GUY IN TOWN

HEAD COACH MICHAEL HOUSTON TAKES OVER JMU FOOTBALL

The Dukes welcomed a new football head coach, Michael Houston, to the team in the fall of 2016. Before coming to JMU, Houston had had a total of 10 years of coaching experience, guiding high schools as well as teams at Lenoir-Rhyne University and The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. After leading these universities' teams to be national contenders, Houston seemed ready to take on JMU.

"I had a very high opinion of JMU before I came here," Houston said. "JMU has not only lived up to expectations, but exceeded expectations in all ways."

Houston noted that at JMU, he loved the team, the campus and the energy the fans brought to the games on Saturdays. He added that the goal of a championship win had been the same for each team he had coached, but that JMU's potential seemed greater.

"[JMU's] ceiling is much higher than it was at the previous places I was at because I think the sky is the limit with everything JMU has to offer," he said.

However, Houston was more focused on what lay directly ahead of the team. Although his goal was to be victorious at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship on Jan. 7, 2017, Houston encouraged the team to take the season one game at a time.

Many of the players seemed to be excited about having Houston on board. Safety player Raven Greene, a redshirt junior and sport and recreation management major, described his appreciation for Houston's guidance.

"He has a fire about him that we all really appreciate," Greene said. "He's a great leader."

Linebacker Justin Wellons, a redshirt senior and justice studies major, agreed with Greene and commented on the coach's vitality.

"He's a high-energy guy, and we love that about him," Wellons said.

It seemed that Houston helped the players achieve success by ensuring that the team cooperated and had a similar mindset.

"Everybody's on the same page, and [coming] together as one," Wellons said.

The concept of caring about one another as a family seemed to be a big theme for JMU Football, and Houston believed that this team orientation led to success.

"[A winning team] is more worried about the success of the team than they are individual accomplishments, and they care about and trust each other," Houston said.

After helping the Dukes win the 2017 Football Championship Subdivision National Championship, Houston was deemed the FCS Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association. This distinct honor highlighted the success and expertise shown by Houston throughout the season.

Although Houston was not sure what to anticipate for years to come at JMU, many members of the community were excited to see how far the Dukes would go with Houston's lead.

WORDS: Chelsea Church

PHOTO: DePaul Straub

DESIGN: Sarah Winn



Above Left: Students in costume gather around President Jonathan R. Alger, who is dressed as a carton of milk. Above Right: Seniors Katie Curcio, Brooke Imber and 2016 graduate Ashley Keane dress as Chef Boyardee, Spaghettios and Parmesan cheese. Below: A Halloween inflatable decorates the exterior of D-Hub.



HALLOWEEN



Getting his inspiration from "Spongebob Squarepants," sophomore Callum Morton dons a Smitty Werbenjagermanjensen costume. Many students made their Halloween costumes by hand.

STUDENTS DRESS UP IN HOMEMADE HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

In 2016, Halloween celebrations at JMU came a little early. That fall, the spooky holiday fell on a Monday, which prompted students to celebrate "Halloweekend" before Halloween arrived. Despite this early due date for costumes, students seemed to be inspired when it came to imagining and creating their very own.

"We [dressed as] carbs, and it's a lot of fun," Brooke Imber, a senior majoring in art education and psychology, said. "You can eat us."

Imber displayed her group costume, which consisted of herself and two friends dressed as a Spaghettios can, a Chef Boyardee can and a Parmesan cheese shaker. The idea began with Imber's friend Katie Curcio, a senior studio art education major who dressed as a can of Chef Boyardee on Halloween.

"[Curcio] wanted to be cylinders, and then we decided to be cans," Imber said. "She was like, 'I'm going to be Chef Boyardee,' and we were like, 'What goes with Chef Boyardee? Spaghettios. And what do you need to put on your Chef [Boyardee] and Spaghettios? Parmesan cheese.'"

The group of friends won D-Hub's costume contest, of which Duke Dog was the judge. The second-place winner, sophomore

engineering major Callum Morton, also shared his experience creating a homemade costume.

"I'm Smitty Werbenjagermanjensen from 'Spongebob Squarepants,'" Morton said. "I made the helmet, or the mask, rather, but I bought the morph suit."

Morton explained that crafting his costume was no small task.

"A lot of stress went into making the helmet because Amazon didn't deliver [it] until the day I needed it, so I had to rush home and construct it [very quickly] out of a lot of my dad's construction tools," Morton said.

University events invited students to bring the Halloween spirit to campus. Students were invited to come to D-Hub to carve pumpkins, and the student who carved the pumpkin that others voted as the best was awarded with a \$100 Netflix gift card.

Whether entering contests with homemade costumes or showing off pumpkin prowess, JMU's "Halloweekend" provided students with an opportunity to express imagination and creativity through a variety of activities.

WORDS: John Kelly

PHOTO: Gabriela Baker and Dominique Dean

DESIGN: Kathryn Magnier

HOMECOMING

A roll of Homecoming 2016 stickers displays the dates of the eventful week, as well as a design depicting Wilson Hall. Mr. and Ms. Madison were crowned during the Homecoming football game on Oct. 29.



JMU SERVES AS A HOME FOR STUDENTS

Because students came from varied backgrounds, the word “home” held differing definitions across the student body. But a point of common ground was this: All JMU students had passed through campus, sharing in the university’s atmosphere and connected by an unseen thread of purple and gold.

Homecoming existed to strengthen this connection, offering a personal experience to individual students. Some even worked behind the scenes to make Homecoming a memorable week for the JMU community.

One such student was junior communication studies major Grant Summers. As the director of the Spirit and Traditions committee on the University Program Board, Summers was responsible for planning the Homecoming-themed Late Night Breakfast. He mentioned that his committee aimed to create a space for all students at Late Night Breakfast by offering vegan and gluten-free options, as well as inviting student dance groups to perform.

“Last year, we had 1,100 [students attend], so we planned for 1,100 — just in that ballpark — but we ended up getting close to 1,500,” Summers said.

For senior finance major and Student Government Association treasurer David Vaughn, Homecoming was an opportunity to reflect on all that the university had done for him throughout his time at JMU.

As a finalist for Mr. Madison, an honor awarded to one male student who embodied the JMU spirit, Vaughn had the opportunity to participate in several Homecoming events. He and the other finalists attended a luncheon with the Alger family and stood upon the Zane Showker Field during the third quarter of the Homecoming football game against the University of Rhode Island.

Vaughn noted that his JMU experience had been a cycle of receiving and giving. He said that he wished to immerse himself in all that JMU had to offer because of that which he had received from the university, and that his nomination for Mr. Madison was a product of this desire to serve the campus.

“Over my time here, I’ve gotten more and more involved and ... given back more and more to a school that’s done such great things for me and provided such great opportunities for me,” Vaughn said. “It’s not something that [the other finalists and I] were

looking to be recognized for; we did it because we love this school and we ... wanted to give back to the school that’s given us so much.”

For many, this personal debt of gratitude to JMU was a result of dedication to campus activities. Summers noted that it was not until he got involved in organizations on campus that he began to feel that JMU was a home to him.

“JMU provides so many diverse opportunities that it’s really just a matter of ... find[ing] your initial place to ground yourself in,” Summers said. “That’s kind of the launchpad to just spread your wings and then to make the whole university experience turn into your home.”

Vaughn noted that he felt he would continue to experience this sense of home at JMU even after graduation.

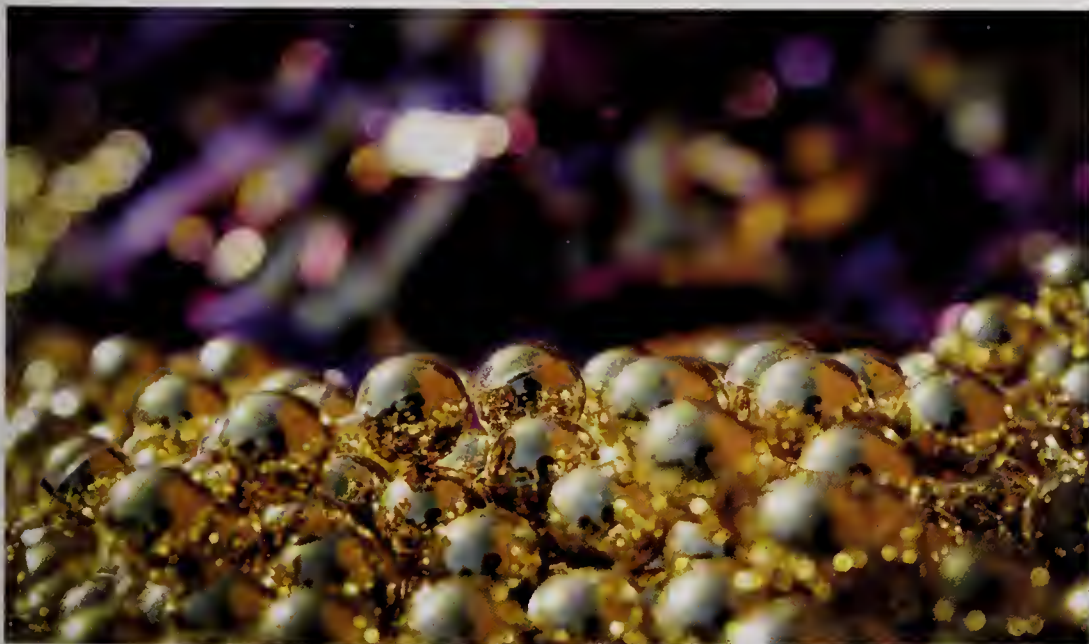
“[JMU is] a place that I know that I can always come back to — that I’ll always have a place to stay or someone that I’ll know,” Vaughn said. “It’s just really made me a better person, and I’ve grown so much since I first came here.”

Homecoming’s purpose was to celebrate the university’s significance in the lives of its students and alumni. Whether from years of sitting in the cool of Wilson Hall’s shadow or through seasons immersed in the sea of purple and gold in the football stadium, JMU became home for many students. Homecoming allowed all in the JMU community to return to the place that would always welcome them back.

WORDS: Giuliana Macaluso

PHOTO: Dominique Dean

DESIGN: Kathryn Magnier



Purple and gold beads shine in the sunlight. During the Homecoming football game on Oct. 29, many students and alumni showed their support for the Dukes as the team achieved an 84-7 win against the University of Rhode Island.

THEN + NOW

JMU EVOLVES AS TIME PROGRESSES

From its inception in 1908 as the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg, through its evolution to Madison College in 1938, to its status as James Madison University, campus had developed as the years had passed. Although several original elements of the university stood firm, JMU appeared to welcome seemingly constant expansion. And at an institution that seemed to refuse to passively remain unchanged, many students pursued growth that matched that of their university as they journeyed through their time at JMU.

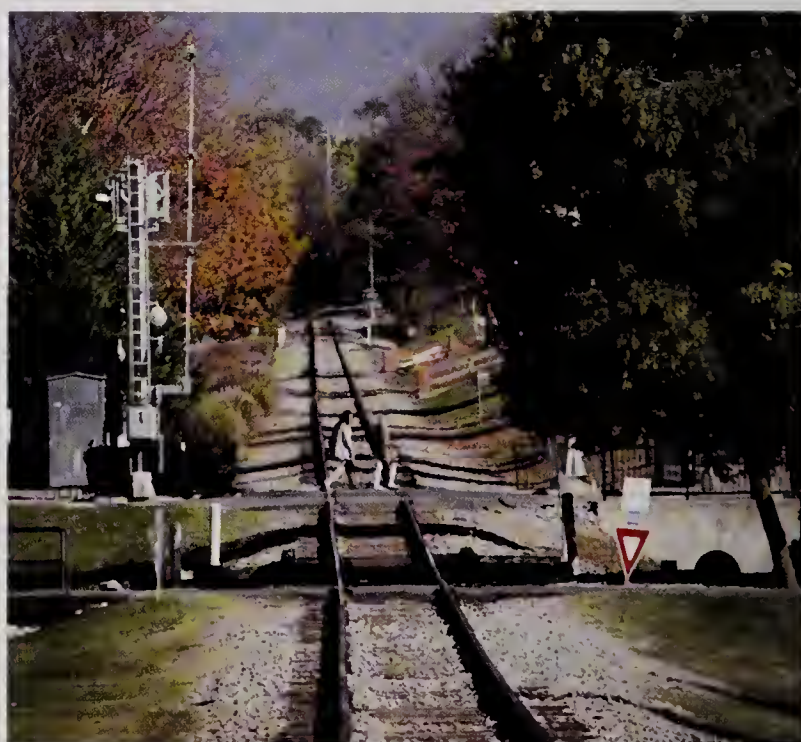
WORDS: Giuliana Macaluso

PHOTO: Ziyu Xu and Courtesy of The Bluestone

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



JMU students walk on the train tracks on JMU's campus in 1988.



JMU students cross the intersection of Duke Drive and Bluestone Drive in 2016.



Jackson Hall overlooks Madison College in 1940.



Jackson Hall stands partially hidden behind a tree on JMU's Quad in 2016.



Cars are parked in the parking lot beside Newman Lake in 1992.



JMU's Eagle Hall overlooks the P parking lot in 2016.

LIFE AS A FIRST-YEAR

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS DISCUSS ON-CAMPUS LIVING

Campus life seemed to provide students with the opportunity to create a new foundation for their college experience. Many first-year students began to establish themselves on campus by living in residence halls.

Telijah Fitch, a freshman justice studies major, reflected on her transition from living at home to in a residence hall.

"It was a little rough at first, ... [but] adjusting to a roommate wasn't hard for me because I have siblings, and I have shared a room before," Fitch said.

Naomi Daniel, a junior majoring in nursing and health sciences, discussed the significance of moving in to the residence halls.

"It's definitely a big step," Daniel said. "You're 18 years old, you're all by yourself [and] you don't have your parents telling you what to do."

Initially, some students struggled with the adjustment of living on campus because it was a new part of their educational career and personal growth. However, junior health sciences major Lauren Gragnani stated that university programs helped her adjustment to the residence halls run more smoothly.

"JMU as a whole does a good job of transitioning [students] in," Gragnani said.

1787 August Orientation was an effort to help students adjust to living on campus and to build a foundation for incoming first-year students. Samuel Thurman, a freshman political science major, reflected on how the week helped him find his niche at JMU.

"I hated [1787 August Orientation] at first because I didn't know anybody," Thurman said. "Once you get to know people, everything is more relaxed."

Thurman, a Gifford Hall resident, also discussed the importance of building friendships within the residence halls. He said that he was not expecting the students in his hall to be as welcoming as they were. He mentioned that his roommate arrangement was random, but that taking this chance was beneficial because he grew more as a person when he was surrounded by people with whom he had not previously been familiar.

"It's good to live with other people and live closer [to campus] because you can build relationships," Fitch said.

Daniel discussed how the relationships she built in her residence hall were enlightening. She had gone to a private high school, so the diversity in the residence hall was new to her.

"[Living in the residential halls] made me realize there is so much more [experience to gain] with individual people," Daniel said. "It made me a better person to live with people that I normally would not have lived with."

Living in the dormitories helped Gragnani also branch out more and realize the similarities she shared with her hallmates.

"[Communal living] makes you realize you are not in a bubble [for] the rest of your life," Gragnani said.

Residence halls were designed to provide a space for incoming Dukes to develop the first friendships of their college experience, laying out the bedrock for the future.

WORDS: Erica Walker

PHOTO: Madison Ebbert

DESIGN: Adam Ryan



Above: Freshman Samuel Thurman shows off his side of the shared dormitory room. Thurman lived in Gifford Hall on the Quad.

Opposite left: Freshman Samuel Thurman poses for a picture indoors.

Opposite right: Freshman Telijah Fitch poses for a picture on the Quad.



PAPER OVER PIXELS

LOCAL BOOK FAIR PROMOTES ACCESS TO LITERACY MATERIALS

Cushioned within the might of the Shenandoah Mountains, the Green Valley Book Fair welcomed readers from near and far to purchase books at a lower price. Despite the fact that the establishment had been thrust into the digital age in the years since its start in 1971, many believed that the book fair — and print publishing, for that matter — still held great importance.

Reagan Neese, the supervisor of the Green Valley Book Fair, had been overseeing the operation since 1994. Neese explained that he felt paper books remained practical, despite the emergence of e-readers.

“Books in and of themselves are convenient — as in, you can take them anywhere, whereas you might not be able to take your [e-reader] anywhere else,” Neese said.

In accordance, junior health sciences major Jessana Westbrook explained in an email interview that for her, physical books held more of an element of permanence than did e-readers.

“Most times when I read an e-book [reader], I read it once, delete it and never see it again,” Westbrook said. “I can’t pass it along or pick it up when I notice it on the bookshelf. Buying a book gives it a sense of value.”

Westbrook believed that paper books not only had longer life spans than their electronic counterparts, but also that there was a feeling of security that came with reading a physical book.

“I think there’s something incredibly special about being able to hold a tangible book in your hands,” Westbrook said.

“You never have to worry that the battery will run out or whether you’ll be able to see

the screen in the sun. Having a solid book is just a reliable choice.”

Beyond this practical value, Westbrook noted that the book fair held a sentimental element for her, as well. Her parents had brought her to the event a decade earlier, and she explained that visiting the book fair again brought her back to her youth.

“When I went back this year after about 10 years, it was still super nostalgic because the feel was the same — warm light, books everywhere and shoppers actually wanting to buy a book and read,” Westbrook said.

Like Westbrook, Neese also noted that paper books transported readers to a time in the past and that this was part of the reason he believed that such literacy materials were still relevant.

“People like the feel and the nostalgia ... that [come] with reading,” Neese said.

Reese desired that the book fair would continue to promote these feelings of comfort in its patrons for years to come.

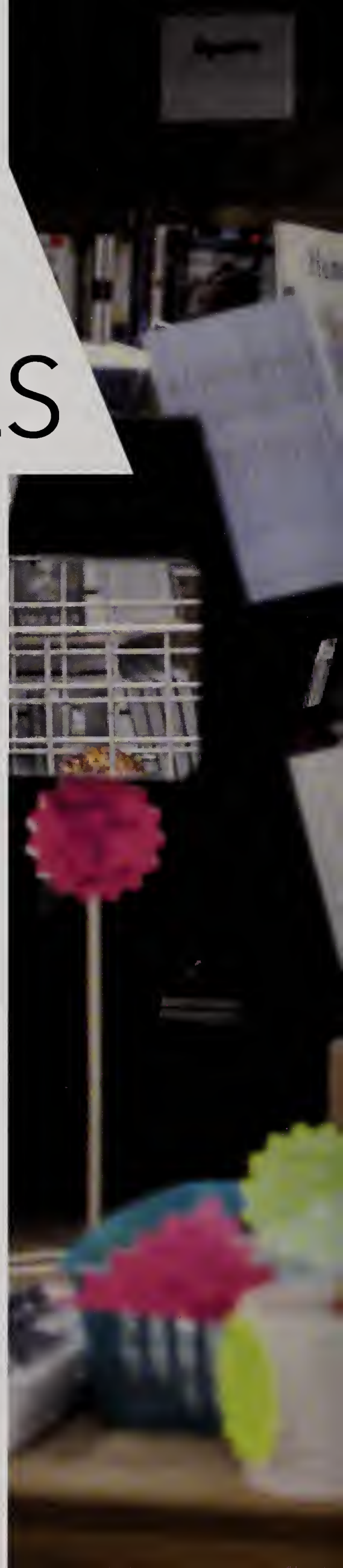
“I hope that we just continue to get a large audience from a large scope of area to come and enjoy getting books,” Reese said.

For many, the Green Valley Book Fair was simultaneously a vestige and a testament to books’ enduring role in the future. In a society that appeared to continuously rebel against the past, the book fair seemed to communicate that ink on paper would live on.

WORDS: Giuliana Macaluso

PHOTO: Sydney Kane

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic





A patron of the Green Valley Book Fair flips through one of the books on sale. The operation offered discounts on books and gifts.





Left: The green letters on the building of the Green Valley Book Fair encourage patrons to enter.
Right: Patrons of the fair browse the aisles, looking for their next read. Some customers visited multiple times each year.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Above: A sign stands in front of a Habitat for Humanity project on Virginia Avenue. The site was to become a new home for a local family.
Below: A workspace is set up on the inside of a Habitat for Humanity project. Members of the organization volunteered to build or fix houses for families in need.



Central Valley Habitat for Humanity member Larry Brown takes a photo of JMU Habitat for Humanity volunteers. Club members spent most of the day on select Saturdays volunteering for this cause.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SERVES THE COMMUNITY

Every Saturday, several members of JMU's Habitat for Humanity headed out to locations across Virginia and West Virginia to help build and repair homes for those in need.

Club co-president Peyton Johnson, a junior majoring in communication studies and Spanish, joined the organization as a freshman. Johnson grew up going on mission trips across the country and participating in community service activities similar to that which Habitat for Humanity performed, and this experience inspired her to take on an active role within the organization.

"The main goal of Habitat as a whole, both in the U.S. and internationally, is just to create a world where everyone has a place to live," Johnson said. "That means a decent home that is theirs, and not just a place where they sleep; it's their own home. So that's the goal, and through all the universities and all the affiliates they have, [the organization is] slowly accomplishing that."

During weekly "builds," Habitat for Humanity members traveled to different construction areas and were trained in basic building skills by on-site volunteer affiliates. While builds were not required of club members, those who participated were able

to gain new abilities in building and repair while helping out a larger cause.

"People really like Habitat because they don't have to know how to do anything," Johnson said. "Then they can leave [a build] at the end of the day and be like, 'I sawed 50 pieces of wood today with an electric saw.'"

Javier Morales, a senior mathematics major, said that his father inspired him to join the organization in the fall of 2016.

"I always wanted to be in [Habitat for Humanity]," Morales said. "It's one of those things where my dad did construction for a living, so I went to work with him a couple of times, and I found it very interesting. It's a nice thing to do — to give back and help others."

The organization hosted a 5K in the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum on Oct. 16 to raise money for builds and awareness for the cause. Morales ran in the 5K and participated in the club's intramural ultimate frisbee team.

"On the intramural team, I met a lot of people, and I see them every once in a while on a campus," Morales said. "It's nice getting out and meeting people that I

wouldn't regularly see in my major or with some of my friends."

The club also held social events, such as its annual Habitat Day, during which members set up a small construction project on Hillside Field and invited passersby to help in the building process. Several businesses took part in and donated to the event, including Jimmy John's, Campus Cookies, Aspen Heights and Insomnia Cookies.

"The goal with [Habitat Day] was first, to build something ... and just also to raise awareness for Habitat for Humanity, not only at JMU, but also in general," Johnson said.

In its efforts to better the lives of those in need through community service, Habitat for Humanity seemed to set the groundwork for a brighter future.

WORDS: Michelle Criqui

PHOTO: Hannah Adams

DESIGN: Madison Ebbert

TALK^{THAT}TALK

LANGUAGE CLUBS CONNECT WITH HARRISONBURG COMMUNITY

For some students, practicing a new language in class and through the completion of assignments was not enough to master the skill. Language clubs could act as the final push in the learning process, providing further practice and cultural immersion. If a college student couldn't afford to travel abroad, a language club was a great way to be among others who were also willing to learn and practice.

But strengthening languages was not all students did as a part of a language club. Many of them also focused on becoming more knowledgeable about their respective cultures.

Matthew Best, president of the Spanish Club and a sophomore majoring in psychology and modern foreign languages, encouraged students of all levels to join.

"We're really fueled by how much all of us love Spanish and want to know more about Spanish culture and Latin American culture," Best said.

The presidents of several JMU language clubs connected with local

businesses so that students could be immersed in another culture, while staying within Harrisonburg.

Nicholas D'Ambra, president of the Italian Club and a senior political science major, explained that this helped his organization stand apart from other language clubs.

"One of the things we like to focus on is that we're really involved in the Harrisonburg community overall, as far as ... [collaborating with businesses] like Bella Luna or Agrodolce," D'Ambra said. "We've worked with Crosskeys [Vineyards] ... bringing students to those places and connecting them to people who are Italian."

Many language clubs also offered tutoring opportunities, which helped students pursue academic success. Tutoring sessions could be helpful for students who struggled in class or needed to review before midterms. Club members could get assistance from international students and those in higher-level classes.

Many groups stressed not only the importance of learning the language, but also embracing the culture.

"This [spring 2017] semester, we're doing a finger painting event where you can paint your own Sistine Chapel," D'Ambra said.

Several language clubs also strove to connect with one another.

"I've talked to some people from French Club," Best said. "We're trying to figure out some stuff that we can maybe do, like maybe have soccer tournament fundraiser ... where all the different language clubs could play each other, kind of like the JMU Language World Cup."

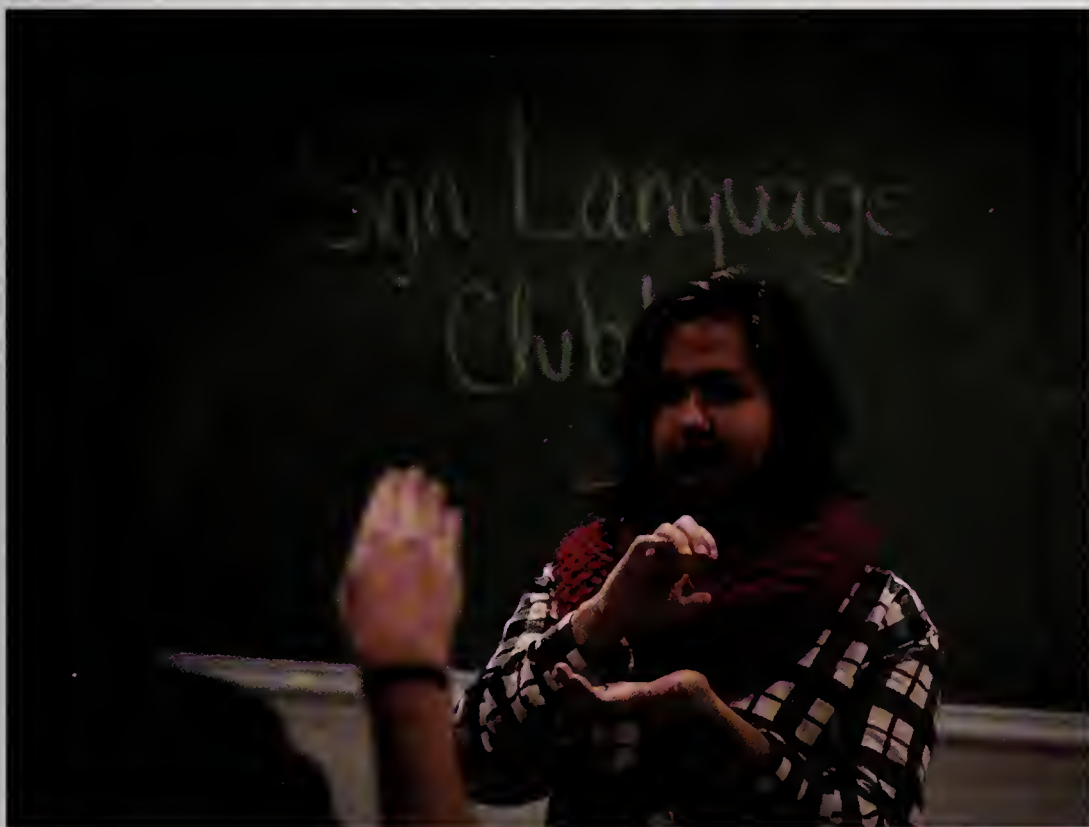
The amount of opportunities available through language clubs aimed to connect students to a variety of cultures.

WORDS: Andrianna Boykin

PHOTO: Sydney Kane
and Courtesy of Ayesha Sheikh

DESIGN: Madison Ebbert





Opposite: Members of Italian Club speak to one another during a meeting.
Above Left: Members of French Club listen in during a meeting.
Above Right: A member of Italian Club talks and laughs with a fellow member.
Left: A member of Sign Language Club signs to another member.

DanceAbility

ORGANIZATION PROMOTES CONNECTION THROUGH DANCE

Dancing: An activity in which the body moved to the rhythm of a beat. It could be used as a form of expression, a way to impress a crush or just as a way to relieve some stress. For many, dancing was a way of life that brought enjoyment not only to dancers themselves, but to others.

DanceAbility was an organization at JMU that taught people with disabilities how to dance. With the dancers' ages ranging from 20 to 60 years old, these community members gathered every week at the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center in Harrisonburg to learn new dances. Student volunteers taught various moves, which depended on suggestions that both the dancers and the students gave.

"Last year, I taught them the whip and nae nae," club president Paulina Dam, a senior business management major, said. "They loved it."

Sarah Troy, a senior communication sciences and disorders major, had been a part of the organization since she was a freshman. Troy had been introduced to DanceAbility through her involvement with another student organization, Overcoming Barriers.

"[In DanceAbility], we choreograph a dance together," Troy said. "It's usually pretty casual, just because everyone has different abilities. ... We [come up with] new choreography each semester, and we do something fun with props."

In the fall of 2016, club members rehearsed a dance to the song "Can't Stop the Feeling" by Justin Timberlake.

"Last year, we did 'Jingle Bell Rock,'" Troy said. "We've done Elvis, Journey [and] Train. ... [The dancers] always recommend Eminem and ... country."

Each week's rehearsal led up to the club's main event, a recital, that was held at

Grafton-Stovall Theatre on Dec. 4, 2016. This performance allowed the dancers to show off everything they had learned throughout the semester.

"[The dancers] all get so excited to be able to show their families and caretakers all that they've learned and be able to dance onstage in front of everyone," Troy said.

DanceAbility reached out to those in the community with disabilities, providing them with a safe and welcoming space to gain skills in dancing, meet new friends and express themselves through music.

WORDS: Raja Abdul-Badee

PHOTO: Kayla Medina

DESIGN: Sarah Winn



After a complete run-through, students and participants in the DanceAbility program finish their routine. DanceAbility connected students with individuals in the community who had disabilities.



Above and Below: Students and participants in the DanceAbility program partake in freestyle dancing to get their blood pumping.



LOCAL FINDS

DISCOVERIES IN THE 'BURG

Harrisonburg offered an environment for students and community members alike to explore local shops and restaurants that stood along historic streets.

One such place was L & S Diner on North Liberty Street, which was built in 1947 to resemble a train car. It specialized in home-cooked meals, such as biscuits and gravy, pan-fried chicken, and an assortment of breakfast sandwiches.

Another local find was The Nest Yoga + Fitness Studio on Lucy Drive. The studio offered classes to both beginners and more advanced practitioners, with sessions ranging from meditation, pilates and barre to heated and non-heated yoga.

On South Main Street, Dream Cones gave patrons an array of ice cream flavors from which to choose, such as cotton candy, apple pie and strawberry shortcake. The shop also sold coffee and freshly baked pastries.

The Harrisonburg area was home to many distinct localities that visitors could discover as they made their way through the winding streets and explored all the city had to offer.

WORDS: Michelle Criqui

PHOTO: Kaleigh Smith and Catherine Burch

DESIGN: Alexandra Rathjens



Customers sit in a line on red barstools at L & S Diner. The restaurant had been open for 70 years.



Above Left: A downtown patron of Harrisonburg's Dream Cones holds an ice cream cone.

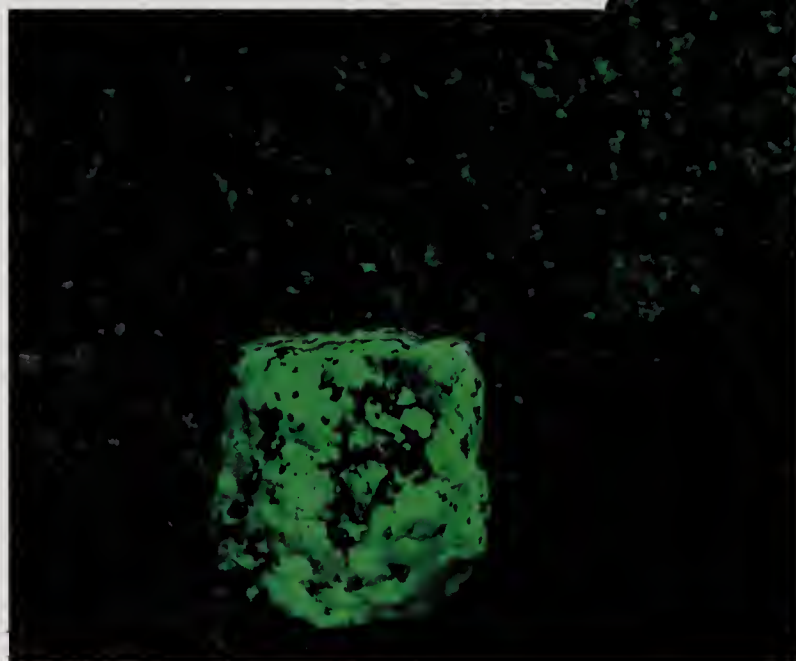
Above Right: A hand-drawn sign welcomes visitors to The Nest Yoga + Fitness Studio.



The displays are illuminated as the minerals are housed in lighted cases for easy viewing.



Left: A glow-in-the-dark mineral is displayed with the lights off.
Right: Rainbow-colored hematite, which was originally found in Peters Mountain in Allegheny County, Virginia, is displayed.



MINERAL MUSEUM

MEMORIAL HALL HOUSES A COLLECTION OF CRYSTALS AND GEMS

Off of a seemingly ordinary hallway in Memorial Hall, a room filled with rich, iridescent minerals from all over the world constituted the Mineral Museum. Lance E. Kearns of the Geology Department began collecting for and creating this museum in 1976, but the establishment wasn't opened until Oct. 13, 2007.

The collection had begun with donations from private collectors and other mineral museums, as well as with monetary gifts. However, the museum later became endowed by the James Madison University Foundation.

"When I got to James Madison University, there were no major mineral specimens in the department," Kearns said. "I started to gather them over time since 1976, and I had help from the University of Delaware and Bryn Mawr College, along with several other private collectors all over the East Coast."

The collection used a specific layout to display the minerals, making it easier for visitors to navigate the museum. One mineral, a fire opal from Ethiopia, was added to the collection in October 2016. Other featured gems ranged from a turquoise diopside found in the Republic of Congo to a purple and white amethyst quartz from Vera Cruz, Mexico.

"My favorite mineral in the collection is a turquoise mineral from Lynch Station, Virginia," Kearns said. "It's my favorite because it comes from a very classic locality and there is no stone like it anywhere. It could not be replaced. It may not be the most expensive in the collection, but it is the most special to me."

This museum seemed to be a hub for geology students at JMU. Many professors brought students to the museum as a class trip or to learn about the specimens for a project.

"I am taking mineralogy as my major class, and we are required to memorize all of the gemstones in the room," sophomore geology major Grant Colip said. "I spend my free time here looking at them. I could probably spend the entire day in here. It is so beautiful."

Kearns looked forward to a time in which the Mineral Museum could move to a larger and more permanent space in Festival Conference Center on East Campus, but until then, the museum aimed to continue enlightening students on the natural world around them.

WORDS: Kathleen Flowers

PHOTO: Kayla Medina

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



ART ON DISPLAY

STUDENTS ACCESS ARTWORK THROUGH ON-CAMPUS GALLERIES

For many, entering one of the art galleries located on campus was like stepping into another world. JMU's galleries exposed students to the artistic realm and gave student artists the opportunity to display their creations.

The Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art featured exhibitions throughout the year, the composers of which were various artists from around the world. Students often stopped by the gallery to contemplate the work on display, and some occasionally scribbled notes in sketchbooks or discussed in hushed tones what they saw.

"It's not just professional artists who have their work featured here; it's also graduate students and faculty," Oluwatosin Adesanya Olaleye, a 2016 graduate and an intern at the Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art, said. "We are a fine art gallery, but we show a wide range of mediums; in our last exhibit we had ... a combination of art and technology."

Adesanya Olaleye believed it was important to have art galleries on college campuses, and specifically on JMU's campus, because of the potential they held for students to make a personal connection with the exhibits' creators.

"It stands in place of a museum, but with an art gallery, you have it right here to see the works and possibly talk to the artist in person and ask questions about their processes," Adesanya Olaleye said.

Senior political science major Grace Hoffman, who worked at the Duke Hall Gallery, added that it was important to situate the art galleries within academic buildings.

"The gallery being right here on campus is something that's really special to students," Hoffman said. "You can be taking a class down the hall and stop by."

In addition to the Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art, the artWorks Gallery was another of JMU's art galleries and was located on

Grace Street. As the only student-run art gallery on campus, artWorks featured work by both undergraduate and graduate students.

"When I was a student here, my work was featured in the artWorks Gallery," Adesanya Olaleye said. "It was pretty neat because for every artist to become a professional, you need a resume, and being exhibited is a very good thing to have in your toolkit."


The exhibits in the artWorks Gallery changed every three weeks, which provided the students who worked there with the opportunity to gain knowledge about what it took to run an art exhibition.

The campus art galleries existed to showcase student and professional artwork, bringing the craft to life.

WORDS: Julia Shawver

PHOTO: Kayla Medina and Rebecca Reid

DESIGN: Abigail Mumma



Above: "Draupadi's Hair" by Surabhi Ghosh is displayed in the Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art. This gallery showcased professional artists.

Below: Sophomore Daniel DeSousa examines "Wool Locks" by artist Rowland Rickets III. This was DeSousa's first visit to the Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art.



WHERE I'M FROM

CULTURE
FOR US
IS PRETTY
IMPORTANT,
BUT IT DOESN'T
DOMINATE
EVERYTHING.



NATHALIE
MUSFER

FRESHMAN, NURSING

Q: What is your cultural background?

A: I'm from Palestine. I come from a Middle Eastern background.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Ramallah, Palestine, but I moved to the U.S. when I was seven.

Q: What is your family like, and how does culture play an important role in your family?

A: My family is very mixed, with Americanized versions of Middle Eastern background. My mom grew up in America most of her life, so we got the taste of both sides while growing up back home [in Palestine], and so we're very family oriented and very modern.

Q: Do you speak more than one language?

A: Yes; I speak English and Arabic.

Q: What do you like about your cultural background?

A: I love the community settings — how everyone cares for each other. No matter who or what or wherever you come from, people are always welcoming, and that's a nice thing to have. I come from an open and accepting, non-traditional area.



KARINA
CALDERON

SOPHOMORE, PSYCHOLOGY

Q: What is your cultural background?

A: I am originally from Brooklyn, New York, and I am Puerto Rican, Dominican and Nicaraguan.

Q: What is your family like, and how does culture play an important role in your family?

A: My parents were born in New York, but my grandparents shoved culture down our throats, so we're not really Americanized and we do all the traditional Hispanic things.

Q: Do you speak more than one language?

A: Yes; I speak Spanish.

Q: What do you like about your cultural background?

A: I like that it's different, and we have different kinds of foods, and we have different traditions.



DANIELLE DIAS

FRESHMAN, NURSING

Q: What is your cultural background?

A: I am originally from Birmingham, Alabama, but my background is technically English, Irish, Russian, Hawaiian, Filipino, Portuguese, Chinese [and] Italian. But I mainly just tell people Hawaiian because that's what I look like.

Q: What is your family like, and how does culture play an important role in your family?

A: I have a pretty big family, and we all are immersed in the Hawaiian culture. ... Everyone's danced hula at one point, and my mom has been a teacher and so have my older sisters. ... We have our own Hawaiian community in Virginia and our family back at home.

Q: Do you speak more than one language?

A: Not technically, but there's this Filipino pig Latin that a lot of Hawaiian people speak, so [I speak] maybe, like, half a different language.

Q: What do you like about your cultural background?

A: I like how it's not super big, so I'm able to share that with a lot of people, and ... bring it to a different part of the world.



MAHLET AYELE

FRESHMAN, HEALTH SCIENCES

Q: What is your cultural background?

A: Culturally, I am Ethiopian.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born and raised in Virginia, but I have gone back to Ethiopia to see the rest of my family.

Q: What is your family like, and how does culture play an important role in your family?

A: My family is pretty small. It's mostly my nuclear family here, with almost everyone else back home [in Ethiopia]. Culture for us is pretty important, but it doesn't dominate everything. It's to the extent that we speak the language and eat the food.

Q: What do you like about your cultural background?

A: My favorite thing about Ethiopia is the food, but I also like that fact that it's a very cool country, and the history is very interesting.

WORDS: Vanessa Nikolic

PHOTO: Vanessa Nikolic

DESIGN: Kenneth Basic

C.I.S.R.

ORGANIZATION WORKS TO BRING LIGHT TO A GLOBAL ISSUE

For Kenneth Rutherford, a political science professor and the director of the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery, the global eradication of landmines became important to him “entirely by accident.”

In December of 1993, Rutherford was seriously injured by a landmine in Somalia. He said that since then, he had gone “all-in” for CISR’s cause, which was not limited to ending destruction caused by landmines.

“I thought my story was unique. I thought it was interesting. I thought it was fascinating because it doesn’t happen, and that’s all not true. My story’s just a typical story,” Rutherford said.

The Mine Action Information Center, which would later become CISR, was founded in 1996. According to Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, an agency geared toward emergency relief programs, about 26,000 people were maimed or killed by landmines annually. Rutherford called this devastation “a global crisis,” one of which many Americans were not fully aware.

Just before Rutherford became director in 2010, MAIC changed its name to the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery, or CISR.

“We [at CISR] felt the original title limited our work to landmines, and we saw increasing problems with cache weapons, small arms and light weapons, illicit trafficking of weapons, and the destabilizing effects that these conventional weapons issues address,” Rutherford said.

CISR graduate assistant Victoria Price believed that since the United States was

one of the countries that created landmines, it was important for American citizens and organizations to play their part in “making the world a safer place.”

CISR partook in many global initiatives to foster safety and recovery. The organization produced “The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction,” a trade journal that promoted landmine elimination, as well as “To Walk The Earth In Safety,” a publication that advocated for survivors.

Price was a program assistant for CISR’s 2016 Senior Managers’ Course, which took place at JMU from May 23 to June 10. Representatives from 13 countries that were affected by conventional weapons attended the course.

“[Participants] learned different public administration skills and were able to network with one another [and] talk about best practices in their [offices],” Price said.

Rutherford noted that CISR took on various other projects, such as a project in central Vietnam designed to educate government officials and local leaders on the national disability law.

“We’ve also done a few Mine Risk Education programs [and] some bomb education for Syrian refugees in Jordan,” Rutherford said.

CISR members hoped that one day, JMU would become the global repository — the central online library — for everything having to do with conventional weapons destruction.

WORDS: Julia Shawver

PHOTO: Laura VanDemark

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



Anne Stewart



Above: CISR Director Kenneth Rutherford talks to an audience about the organization.
Below: The full panel for the organization, which consists of Anne Stewart, Emma Atkinson, Fernando Pargas and Victoria Price, listen as Rutherford speaks.



Mieka Brand Polanco smiles at her desk in her office. Polanco taught cultural anthropology classes at JMU.

STUDENTS COMMEND PROFESSOR MIEKA BRAND POLANCO

With all of the students and staff that comprised the JMU community, standing out could be difficult. Keeping up to date on current events, teaching students in a way that ignited their passions, and devoting time and energy to the university seemed to create the ideal professor. Many students believed that associate anthropology professor Mieka Brand Polanco went above and beyond to constitute the best learning environment for her students.

Polanco had studied at New York University, earning her bachelor's degree in anthropology and minoring in computer applications and Africana studies. She had earned her master's and doctorate degrees at the University of Virginia, studying both archaeological anthropology and cultural anthropology. Further, racial injustice issues in the United States had always been one of her interests.

"We live in a country that is very racially divided and has a lot of tension," Polanco said. "People find meaning and culture in their racial identities. ... There are positive

and negative aspects of racial identity. That is what draws me to it."

Research was an important part of building a reputation in Polanco's field of cultural anthropology. Her work outside the classroom focused on researching how one location in Staunton, Virginia, had been reorganized over time, transforming from a psychiatric hospital to a modern, high-end condominium complex.

"My current research project is [about] a place that used to be Western Lunatic Asylum, then Western State Hospital, [then] Staunton Correctional Center and now the Villages at Staunton," Polanco said. "I am studying how the same space is used over time and how [it transforms] the roles of the people who lived there."

Finding work at a university in Virginia had always been Polanco's hope, and she got her wish when she began teaching at JMU.

"Most professors will go where they're needed around the country," Polanco said. "I was so happy when I saw an opening at JMU for the position, but I knew my chances at getting the job were not high. The passions and sincerity

of the students makes me enjoy working here. I also have fantastic colleagues, and I love my department and the friends I have made with professors outside of the department."

Polanco's past and current research drew the attention of many students. Her ability to speak several languages and communicate well with the student body and the surrounding community made many students consider her a distinct professor at JMU.

"She really cares about her students' well-being by getting us involved and talking with each other," freshman nursing major Sarah Hornung said. "We don't have class on Election Day because she wants us to have every opportunity to vote. She's really well-rounded and teaches us with scenarios that relate to us."

Many students who had taken Polanco's courses gained new perspectives and information about the world around them. Her teaching seemed to have changed many lives each year.

WORDS: Kathleen Flowers

PHOTO: Sydney Kane

DESIGN: Karen Franz



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

MIEKA POLANCO

Books and international artifacts are displayed in Mieka Brand Polanco's office. In addition to teaching, Polanco performed research in Staunton, Virginia.



KAREN McCULLAH

ALUMNA KAREN MCCULLAH DISCUSSES LIFE AS A SCREENWRITER

Bolstered by the skills they had acquired during their undergraduate careers, some students decided to follow their passions to a point of great acclaim in their lives beyond JMU.

One such alumna was Karen McCullah, a 1988 graduate who became a Hollywood screenwriter after stepping into her post-graduation career. With her co-writer Kirsten Smith, McCullah had sold such recognizable screenplays as “10 Things I Hate about You,” “Legally Blonde,” “She’s the Man” and “Ella Enchanted.”

At JMU, McCullah had majored in marketing and had minored in fashion merchandising. Greek life was a central component of McCullah’s JMU experience, as she was a sister of Alpha Gamma Delta and a little sister of Alpha Chi Roh. McCullah lived in the Alpha Gamma Delta house on Greek Row as an undergraduate, and her experience in these fraternities even served as a point of inspiration for two of her films.

McCullah also said that for her, JMU was the source of many lifelong friendships.

“[At JMU,] I met a lot of great people and had a lot of fun, and I still keep in touch with them and vacation with them,” McCullah said in a telephone interview. “Even all these years later, ... I talk to someone from JMU pretty much every day.”

McCullah seemed to be a testament to the fact that life at JMU served as a foundation for the rest of students’ lives, even up to the day of commencement. McCullah’s

commencement ceremony itself seemed to have greatly influenced her career.

“During my graduation, [Robert] ‘Pheof’ Sutton was the speaker, and he was a JMU graduate and he was ... writing on the show ‘Cheers’ at the time,” McCullah said. “I was like, ‘Wow, someone that went here is working in Hollywood?’ That had never even occurred to me. So that always kind of was in my mind.”

However, McCullah noted that her screenwriting journey did not begin directly following her graduation from JMU. Instead, she began working in the marketing realm in Washington, and it was after several years in the nation’s capital that she began to put pen to paper.

“I started writing when I was 25, and I sold my first screenplay when I was 30,” McCullah said.

This screenplay became the 1999 film “10 Things I Hate about You,” an iconic, coming-of-age piece starring Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles. Following the release of “10 Things I Hate about You,” McCullah and Smith continued to co-write screenplays. McCullah also wrote a novel, “The Bachelorette Party,” which was released in 2006.

Even given this continued success, McCullah noted that she had no single source of inspiration. Instead, she believed that her creativity was the result of a life spent in pursuit of intriguing situations.

“You just have to live an interesting life and hang out with interesting people

and travel as much as you can, and pick up inspiration everywhere,” McCullah said.

At times, this inspiration came even in the form of the screenwriter herself; she noted that she identified pieces of her own personality in the characters she’d created.

“I’m probably a combination of Kat from ‘10 Things I Hate about You’ and Elle Woods [from ‘Legally Blonde,’] as odd as that sounds,” she said.

For McCullah, writing characters was a more involved process than a simple collection of dialogue. Instead, she favored more layered protagonists, many of whom were on a journey toward self-realization.

“I like writing characters that are underestimated,” she said. “They have something to prove and a victory to achieve.”

And when the filming ended and the editing finished, McCullah was able to watch these characters take shape on the screen.

“It’s just so fun to see everything you imagined come to life,” she said.

Karen McCullah’s journey from student to success appeared surreal enough to be on the screen itself. But her story seemed to be proof of the fact that a JMU education could transform students’ lives, launching them into the professional world and even serving as the foundation for global renown.

WORDS: Giuliana Macaluso

PHOTO: Courtesy of Karen McCullah

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



JMU alumna Karen McCullah sits for a professional headshot. McCullah graduated in 1988.

STANDING ROCK

STUDENTS STAND WITH NATIVE AMERICAN PROTESTS

Since 2014, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota opposed the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, which was to be built a mile away from the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. This underground pipeline was set to stretch 1,172 miles from North Dakota to Illinois, to transport as much as 460,000 barrels of crude oil across the U.S. per day.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe opposed this pipeline because it was set to cut underneath Lake Oahe and the Missouri River, and could have negative environmental ramifications. Tribe members set up camp near the pipeline and called repeatedly for the U.S. government to stop the construction. Fellow Americans came from all over the country to provide aid to the protestors and join in the protest. In Nov. 2016, millions of Americans showed solidarity for those protesting by “checking in” to Standing Rock on Facebook.

JMU Divest, an organization dedicated to opposing the fossil fuel industry, put together events in support of Standing Rock and their efforts against the pipeline.

These events took place over two days in Nov. 2016. Each event taught students about the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s protests, the environmental effects that the pipeline could have and the cultural significance of the struggle between Native Americans and the U.S. government. Each event provided JMU students with insight into what the protests were about and what could be done to help.

“On the first day, it was a teach-in. Different people came out and expressed their feelings about what was going on in North Dakota,” Jacqueline Finston, a junior political science major and co-founder of the Native American Student Union, said. “There were a few who read some poetry that they had written and sang some songs that they had written about what was going on.”

On the second day, the teach-ins continued, with North Dakotan protesters speaking about their experiences, the environmental impact this pipeline would have and how the policies the U.S. government had put into place impacted the Native American community.

“We spoke at the end on how it affects the Native community as a whole, and our experiences and how it affects us personally,” Mahala Gates, a senior justice studies major and co-founder of the Native American Student Union, said.

Students who spoke at the events shared their frustrations with how the government was mistreating the environment, along with the people of Standing Rock. These frustrations lead students like Elise Mazur, a senior geographic science major and facilitator of the JMU Divest campaign, to help raise awareness through these events.

“When we heard about this going on, we said we had to do something,” Mazur said. “We need to make this a public event at our school, because JMU is not always the most socially aware university. So we figured that hosting an event would get awareness for what we care about, which is social and environmental justice.”

Although the DAPL was set to continue being built in 2017 under orders from the Trump Administration, organizations such as JMU Divest and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe refused to give in, dedicating their time and efforts to preventing the pipeline’s construction on Native American land.

WORDS: Raja Abdul-Badee

PHOTO: Elise Mazur

DESIGN: Kenneth Basic



Students and faculty join together in solidarity for those protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline at the Standing Rock Reservation. The reservation spanned across both North and South Dakota.



A group of approximately 12 students and faculty members are posing for a photo in front of a large, hand-painted red banner. The banner features the text "DEAR STANDING ROCK" in large, bold, black capital letters. The banner is covered in numerous handwritten signatures and messages in various colors. The group is arranged in two rows, with some individuals standing and others kneeling or sitting in the front. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a building with large windows and a brick wall.

DEAR STANDING ROCK

CUBS

WORLD SERIES

AFTER 108 YEARS, THE CHICAGO CUBS TAKE THE TROPHY

The long-reigning “Curse of the Billy Goat” was finally broken for the Chicago Cubs on Nov. 2, 2016, in an extra inning against the Cleveland Indians. It had been 71 years since the Major League Baseball team had made it to the World Series, and over 100 years since the team had won, so this victory seemed to prove to Cubs fans that miracles did exist.

One fan, senior communication studies major Mark Perlin, was a Chicago native and felt personal pride in the hometown win. Perlin was born in the northern suburbs of Chicago, an area in which his parents had been long-time residents.

“My dad lived there for over 30 years ... [and] all my family lives there,” Perlin said.

Though Perlin’s family moved to Virginia shortly after he was born, they seemed to never lose touch with their Chicago roots. Perlin recalled his strong allegiance to the Cubs and fond memories of growing up watching the games.

“When I was little, the allure of the Cubs for me was that they were the underdogs, and I ate that ... up,” Perlin said.

However, Perlin and his parents had never seen their home team play a season as successful as this one.

Wrigley Field was often called “the pitcher’s nightmare and the hitter’s dream,” with gusts from the “Windy City” often blowing in the batter’s favor. Some fans

believed this to have caused the Cubs to hit 199 homeruns in the 2016 season. The year’s pitching staff — including starters Jake Arrieta, Kyle Hendricks and Jon Lester — brought the team to the top of the pitching charts with the lowest earned run average in the League.

Kris Bryant, the third baseman for the Cubs, was named the “National League Most Valuable Player,” while Ben Zobrist, the utility player, was named the “World Series MVP.” Zobrist was the first “Cubbie” to win a World Series MVP, since the award did not yet exist at the time of the team’s 1908 victory.

“It was kind of amazing [to watch],” Perlin said. “It was emotional.”

Chicago waited 108 years to see its Cubs finally win the World Series again.

Chicagoans seemed to have always prided themselves in having the best music with the Chicago blues, hot dogs with the Chicago dog and pizza with the Chicago deep dish, but they could now again say that they had the world’s top baseball team.

When asked if it was worth the century-long wait, Perlin replied: “Oh, yeah.”

WORDS: Erin Paulson

PHOTO: Brady Thomas and
Courtesy of Mark Perlin

DESIGN: Kathryn Magnier



Above Left and Right: Senior Mark Perlin has cheered on the Chicago Cubs from a young age. *Above:* Matthew Wright and Nick McHugh hold a "W" banner after the Cubs' historic win on November 2.

HOLIDAYS IN HARRISONBURG

STUDENTS OBSERVE WINTER TRADITIONS

As the 2016 fall semester came to an end, many students were eager to go home to spend the holidays with their families during winter break.

Throughout the season, some students enjoyed partaking in festive holiday activities, such as decorating and gift exchanging, as ways of getting into the spirit.

To celebrate Christmas, junior mathematics major Connor Kindley spent time with his relatives at home. He shared what he most enjoyed about the time of year, as well as some of the traditions in which he took part during winter break.

"The atmosphere is my favorite part of the holiday season, because everybody seems so much happier even though it's dreadful outside," Kindley said. "On Christmas Day, my parents hide a pickle in the tree and whoever finds it first can open the first present. Then, we usually have a nice breakfast, and our dog gets a fancy treat."

Senior accounting major Eric Blumenkopf celebrated Hanukkah with his family, who chose to keep it simple.

"We don't really do anything out of the ordinary, besides eating and getting presents," Blumenkopf said. "I also like getting to spend time with family."

Senior media arts and design major Sarah Orthwein also celebrated Christmas with her relatives.

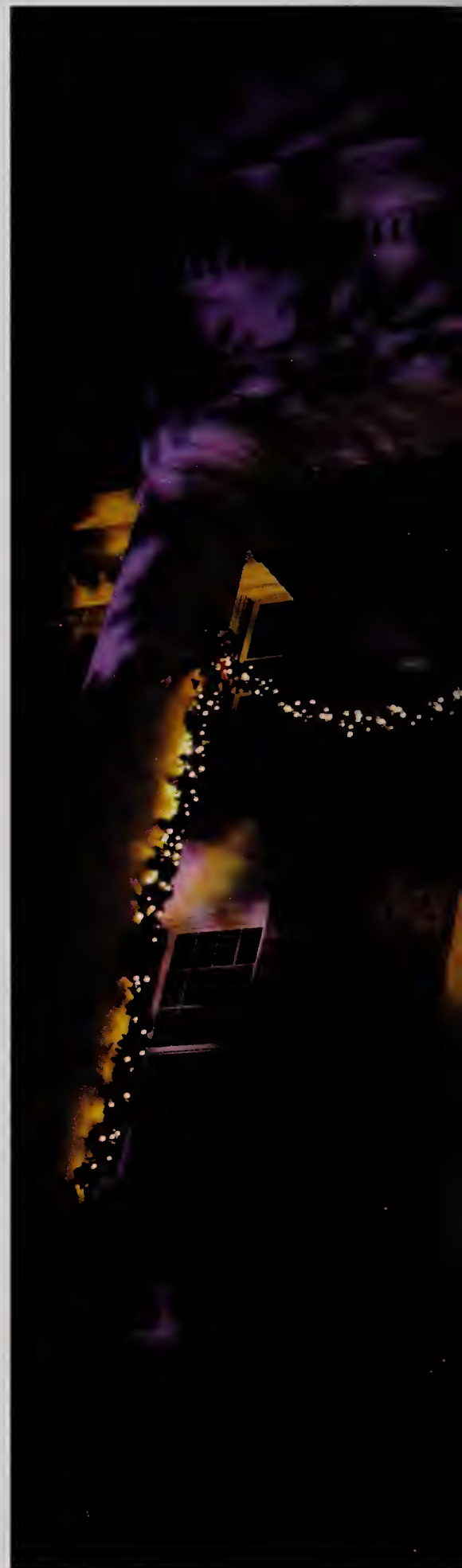
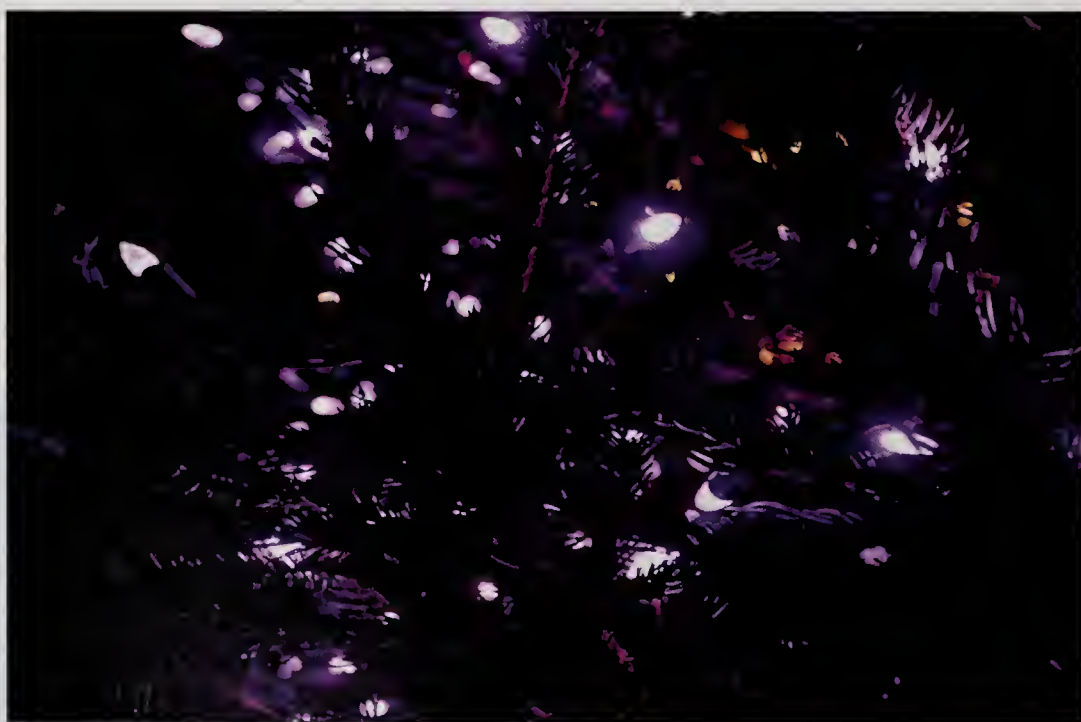
"Ever since I was little, we have always had Christmas Eve at my house with a few of our family friends and some cousins," Orthwein said. "We also always have a family-wide anonymous gift exchange with funny gifts."

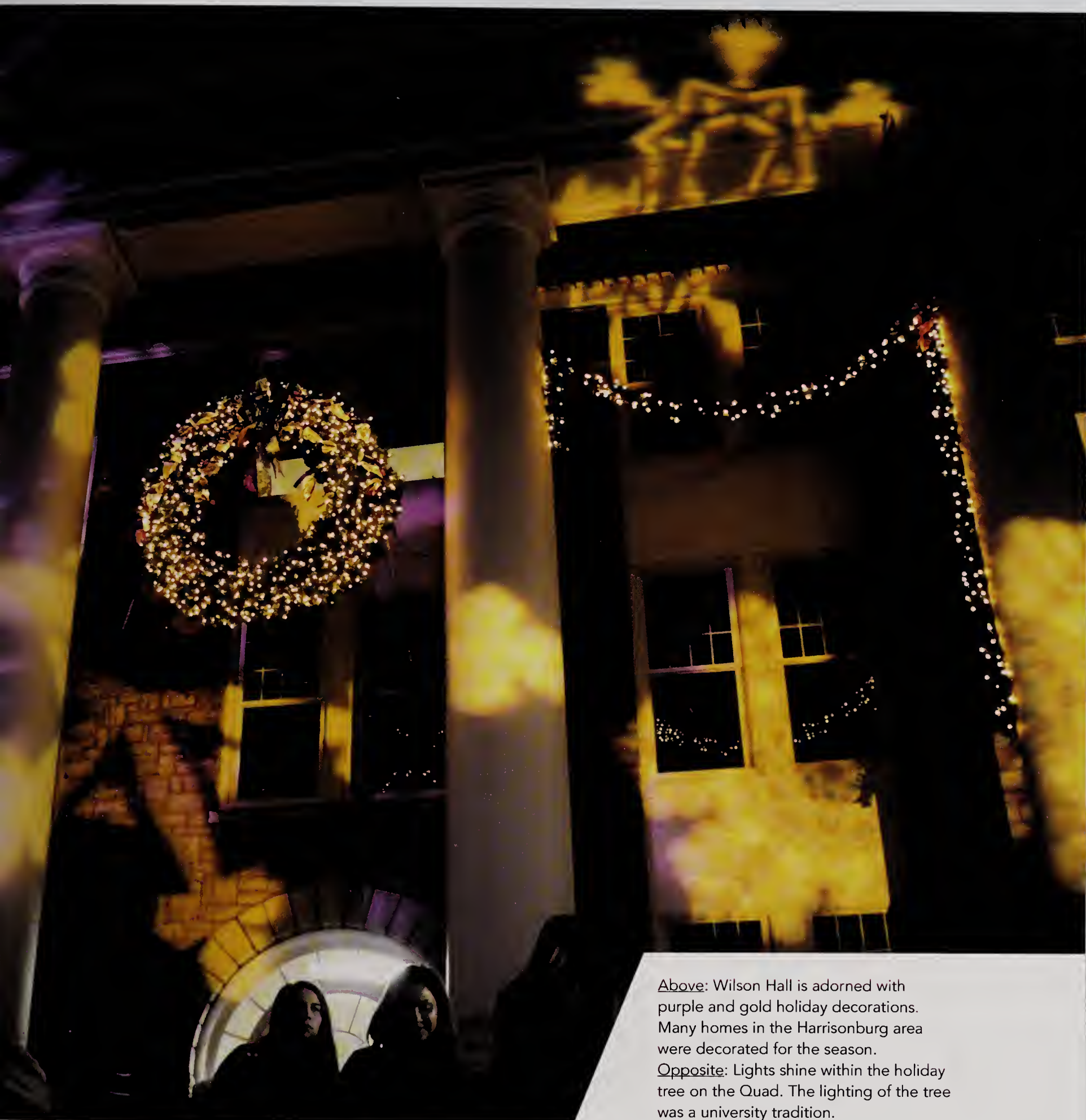
Even though some students celebrated the holidays differently, many shared the same excitement of returning home to spend time with their friends and families.

WORDS: Vanessa Nikolic

PHOTO: DePaul Straub

DESIGN: Madison Ebbert





Above: Wilson Hall is adorned with purple and gold holiday decorations. Many homes in the Harrisonburg area were decorated for the season.

Opposite: Lights shine within the holiday tree on the Quad. The lighting of the tree was a university tradition.

PARROTHEADZ



JIMMY BUFFETT FAN CLUB BRINGS STUDENTS TOGETHER

According to island-inspired, Gulf and country musician Jimmy Buffett, it was “always five o’clock in Margaritaville.” But for members of the JMU Parrotheadz, this line took on a new meaning, aiming to embody a no-worries, carefree lifestyle.

The organization, whose name was a spin on Buffett’s existing “Parrotheadz” fanbase, was founded in 2014 with just a few initial members. The group had grown to include about 50 students in the fall of 2016.

“You don’t need to know a single Jimmy Buffett lyric to join this club,” Gabrielle Sparagno, a sophomore communications major and the club’s secretary, said. “We’ll teach you. You’ll end up loving it. It’s a lifestyle. It’s about [Buffett’s] mentality; it’s about how he lives, and we want to embrace that and celebrate it.”

The organization’s main philosophy was that all worries were left at the door when members attended a meeting. The Parrotheadz strove to foster a welcoming

atmosphere for any prospective member, complete with the sway of tropical music playing in the background.

“We’re all very supportive of each other,” Sparagno said. “It’s a very stress-free environment, and that’s what I like about it.”

Along with regular meetings and hangouts around campus, the club got together several times a semester for social outings such as roller skating at Funky’s Skate Center, visiting the local pumpkin patch and going out for ice cream at Kline’s Dairy Bar.

In the spring of 2016, the Parrotheadz took a road trip out to Virginia Beach to see Jimmy Buffett himself in concert.

“Everyone was just there to have fun and hang out,” Drew Holt, a sophomore marketing major and the club’s vice president, said. “It felt like we were hanging out with Jimmy, honestly.”

Inspired by the nonprofit Save the Manatee Club that Buffett founded in 1981, club members donated enough money in its

first year to adopt a manatee named Howie from the Blue Springs State Park in Orange County, FL.

“[Howie] has one little fin,” Barnes said. “He has some issues, but that’s one of the reasons that we really liked him.”

At the end of their second year, the Parrotheadz adopted a second manatee named Margarita, and hoped to continue their philanthropy in the future. As the group expanded, Barnes, Holt and Sparagno planned to expand their social media presence and perhaps even reach out to Buffett himself for a meet-up someday.

In the meantime, the Parrotheadz promoted a stress-free lifestyle that could be difficult to maintain in an often hectic college atmosphere.

WORDS: Michelle Cricqui

PHOTO: Michelle Cricqui

DESIGN: Christine Garrett



Senior Morgan Barnes, sophomore Drew Holt and sophomore Gabrielle Sparagno pose for photos on the Quad. Barnes, Holt and Sparagno served as the club's president, vice president and secretary, respectively.

ELECTION TIMELINE

April 12, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced her candidacy for the presidential nomination of the Democratic Party.

October 13, 2015

The first Democratic debate was held in Las Vegas.

June 16, 2015

Donald Trump announced his candidacy for the presidential nomination of the Republican Party.

February 1, 2016

The first primary elections took place, with Hillary Clinton winning the Democratic Iowa Caucus and Ted Cruz winning the Republican Iowa Caucus.

March 23, 2015

Texas senator Ted Cruz announced his candidacy for the presidential nomination of the Republican Party.

August 6, 2015

The first Republican debate took place, with the top 10 candidates participating in the prime-time slot.

**February 2016
– June 2016**

Primary elections and caucuses took place in all 50 states and outlying American territories.

April 30, 2015

Vermont senator Bernie Sanders announced his candidacy for the presidential nomination of the Democratic Party.

January 6, 2016

Former governor of New Mexico Gary Johnson announced his candidacy for the presidential nomination of the Libertarian Party.

July 15, 2016

Donald Trump announced Mike Pence as his running mate.

September 26, 2016

The first general election debate took place at Hofstra University.

January 20, 2017

Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States of America.

July 22, 2016

Hillary Clinton announced Virginia senator Tim Kaine as her running mate.

November 9, 2016

Donald Trump became the projected winner of the general election, becoming the president-elect of the United States.

July 21, 2016

Donald Trump accepted the Republican Party nomination for president of the United States.

November 8, 2016

The general election took place.

July 28, 2016

Hillary Clinton accepted the Democratic Party nomination for president of the United States.

December 19, 2016

Electors in the Electoral College met and formally elected Donald Trump and Mike Pence. Trump and Pence received 304 votes, and Clinton and Kaine received 227.

CAMPUS CAMPAIGNERS

POLITICAL CLUBS GET INVOLVED IN THE ELECTION

Following a polarizing 2016 presidential campaign season, voters across the nation headed to the polls on Nov. 8 to cast their ballots. After winning a total of 290 electoral votes, Republican Party candidate Donald J. Trump was named President-elect of the United States.

This presidential election also marked the fifth time in U.S. history that a candidate won the popular vote without winning the race. Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton, the Democratic Party candidate, won the popular vote by a margin of 2.1 percent.

During the campaign season leading up to the election, political organizations on campus worked to ensure that their fellow students had registered to vote, while also promoting their parties' candidates.

Jonathan "Patrick" Stott, a junior political science major and the club president of the College Republicans, got involved in the organization in 2015.

"We're out there supporting the Republican ticket as best we can," Stott said. "There [are] call nights every Tuesday and Thursday [in the local Republican office] for the whole semester. Then we'll have specific college nights, like [on election night]. This is our final ['Get Out The Vote'] push, and we have a pizza party and hopefully do some good."

Joshua Roesch, a junior political science major and the club president of the College Democrats, said that his organization focused primarily on voter registration in the months leading up to the election. In the spring of 2016, the club registered 2,087 people in 28 days through the Student Government Association's "Dukes Vote" initiative, along with another 3,000 in the fall, before the Virginia registration deadline of Oct. 17.

"The manpower was provided almost entirely by this club," Roesch said. "Up until the ... deadline, [our focus] was primarily voter registration, and then it's turned into getting out the vote in these last couple of

weeks — engaging the campus [and] getting the campus out to vote in the Convocation Center precinct."

With the nation almost evenly divided between the two presidential candidates, the atmosphere on campus seemed to grow tense as the election drew nearer.

"I think this is a very negative election with both candidates, so I think it's very polarized from either side," Stott said. "I personally just like to have a conversation with someone if they're from the other side. [It's best] if you can just have a conversation with someone and not bring a buzzword or a label — that's a conversation stopper."

Roesch believed that being a part of a political organization at JMU helped him and his fellow students expand their knowledge on the world of politics and express their opinions on a variety of topics.

"It exposes you to a lot of ideas that you might not be otherwise," Roesch said. "We have people who are very liberal, and we have people

who are conservative, Southern Democrats. We all get exposed to different ideas. That's really helpful for someone in politics, as well as just as a college student in general — just exposing them to new ideas and [talking] about them rather than pushing them away."

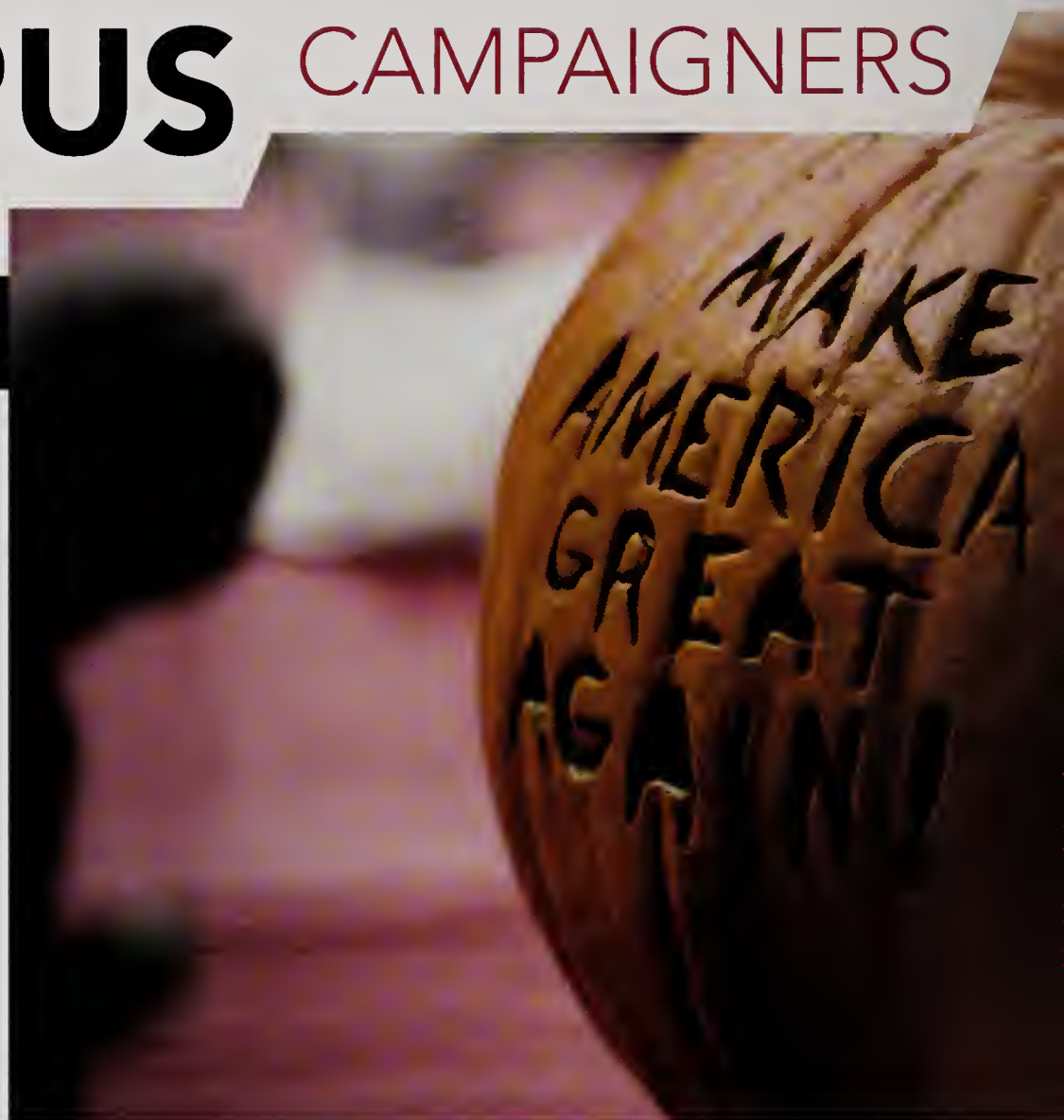
On the night of Nov. 8, both organizations held election watch parties. The College Republicans met up with local activists at Dave's Taverna, while the College Democrats gathered at the Golden Pony downtown, the owner of which, Paul Somers, was a candidate for city council.

Regardless of political party affiliation, these organizations sought to increase awareness of the issues surrounding, and candidates involved in, each election season, and get more college students registered so they could cast their vote.

WORDS: Michelle Criqui

PHOTO: Sydney Kane and Michelle Criqui

DESIGN: Casey Dwyer





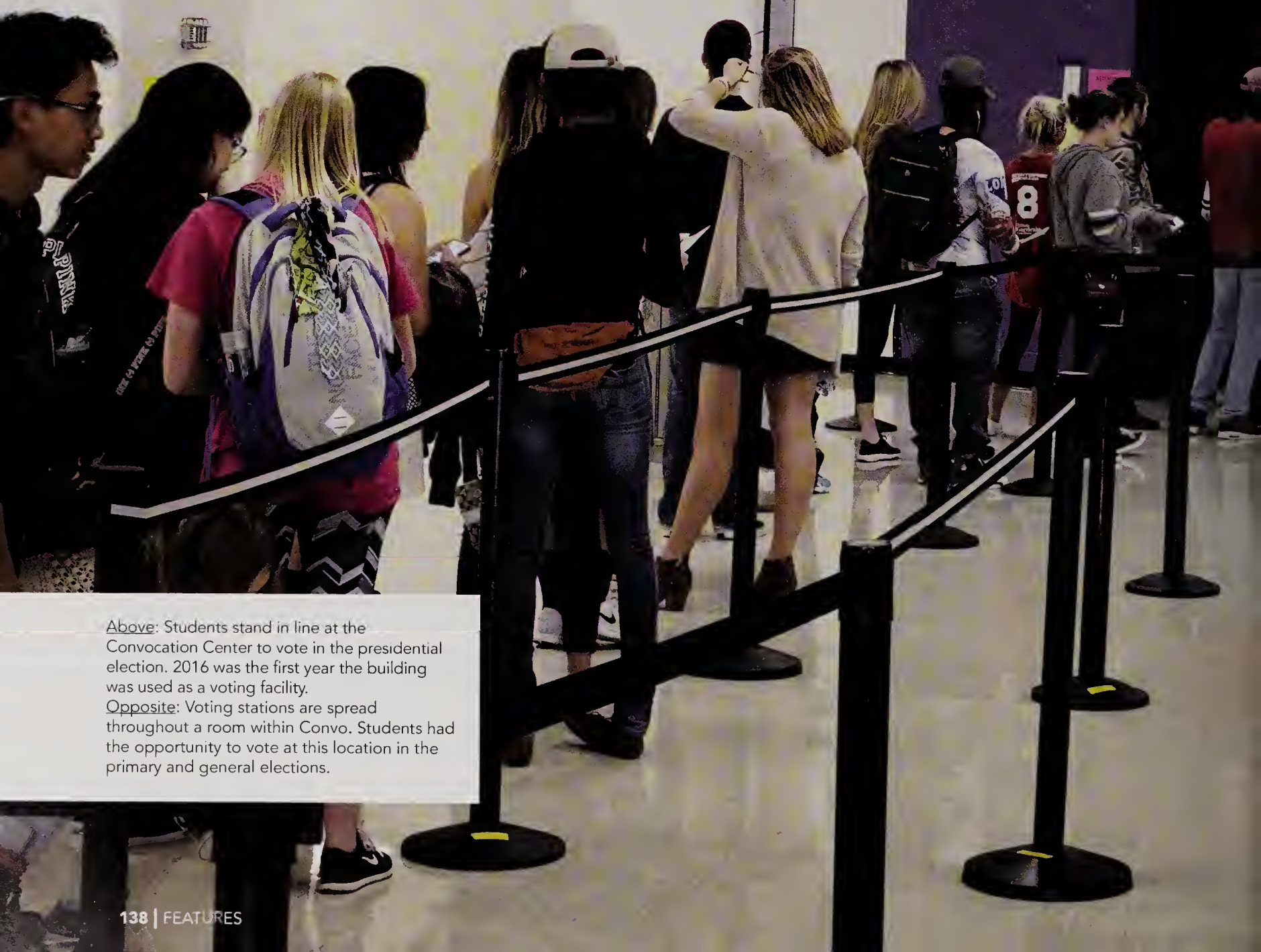
A pumpkin displaying then Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's slogan sits in the office of the Rockingham County Republican Party. The office was located on Neff Avenue.



Left: Junior Mahaley Reynolds, a member of the College Democrats, holds a sign promoting Secretary Hillary Clinton for president on the Quad.

Right: The College Republicans join together the night before the 2016 presidential election. This organization promoted political involvement in Harrisonburg.

DUKES ☒ VOTE



Above: Students stand in line at the Convocation Center to vote in the presidential election. 2016 was the first year the building was used as a voting facility.

Opposite: Voting stations are spread throughout a room within Convo. Students had the opportunity to vote at this location in the primary and general elections.



STUDENTS VOTE ON CAMPUS FOR THE FIRST TIME

"If you could ask the presidential candidates any question, what would you ask?"

This question was written for student input on a whiteboard in the Festival Ballroom at the University Program Board Election Night Watch Party. In this way, the event, which broadcast each state's polls during the general election on Nov. 8, 2016, incorporated student discussion about the election.

Responses ranged from "How do your spouses handle the pressure [of presidential candidacy]?" to lighter topics, such as "Would you bring a pet into the White House?" Students gathered to discuss their political views and watch history unfold.

The watch party was created to keep students and faculty up-to-date on the current political climate and presidential election. For this reason, Dukes Vote approached UPB about co-sponsoring the event.

"We thought spirit and traditions and special events would best be fitted for this,"

Leigh Harmer, public relations director of UPB, said. "[But] most of [the planning] was Dukes Vote."

The 2016 presidential election seemed to divide the nation between controversial candidates; in accordance, much of JMU community seemed to be split on their political views. Due to the contested nature of this election, UPB and Dukes Vote had some reservations about hosting the event.

"Obviously, it is a very heated election," Harmer, a senior majoring in English and modern foreign languages, said. "People are passionate about both sides, [so] finding common ground and not allowing violence and aggression [toward] each other was difficult."

For many students on campus, the 2016 election was their first opportunity to cast a vote in a presidential election. Many felt that getting involved and advocating for an issue or candidate was important. Students discussed their hopes for the future

presidential term, and their contributions to the election process.

"I am part of the College Democrats, and we have been doing canvassing and phone banking," Amel Al-kilany, a freshman political science major, said. "The issues I care about most are the LGBTQ+ issues and education and the economy. My wish for the next president's term is lowering the prices for colleges, if they have any authority to do so."

The UPB and Dukes Vote Election Night Watch Party allowed for many students to bond over a historical election and gain knowledge about the U.S. political atmosphere.

WORDS: Kathleen Flowers

PHOTO: John Kelly

DESIGN: Abigail Mumma

A NATION DIVIDED

DONALD J. TRUMP IS ELECTED 45TH U.S. PRESIDENT

Inauguration Day took place on Jan. 20, 2017 and marked the beginning of the four-year term of the 45th President of the United States: Donald Trump. The inauguration took place on the U.S. Capitol Building's West Front Lawn in Washington. On this day, Barack Obama's time in office came to an end as he handed over his executive powers to President Trump.

Many JMU students chose to watch the inauguration on TV. For some, classes at the time of the event prevented them from watching, while other students chose not watch.

Sophomore mathematics major Richard Holden III watched the inauguration on TV, even though he did not support President Trump's political stances.

"It was a piece of history, so I felt like I was obligated to watch it, regardless of how I felt about him," Holden said. "I feel negatively [about President Trump] but I feel like we have to have an open mind."

Holden believed that President Trump's win and transition into office affected the atmosphere at JMU.

"I think that there was definitely a lot of sadness, but at the same time I think it was

good, because I put sticky notes all around my dorm that [said] 'Love Trumps Hate' and 'Stay Strong,' so I think that people were like, 'Let's rally together,'" Holden said.

Freshman communication science and disorders major Anna Loscalzo also watched the inauguration on TV and had her own opinion on Trump as president.

"I felt like it was a very controversial election, so it was interesting to see him get inaugurated after all that happened," Loscalzo said. "I like him as president. I know many people don't, but I think that he's honest. But I also think it's not a smooth transition because a lot of people don't like him."

Although some students could not watch the inauguration, others did for a variety of reasons. Overall, many JMU students had mixed feelings about President Trump's inauguration and his transition into office.

WORDS: Vanessa Nikolic

PHOTO: Stephanie Morales

Courtesy of the Breeze

DESIGN: Madison Ebbert

Opposite: An illustration of President Donald J. Trump stands in front of the American flag.



WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON

HISTORIC PROTEST SPANS SEVEN CONTINENTS

The 2017 Women's March sparked protests around the world on Jan. 21, 2017, garnering massive crowds and making history. All seven continents held women's marches, and in the U.S. alone, more than 3.3 million people participated in marches in over 500 cities.

Based on data from Erica Chenoweth at the University of Denver and Jeremy Pressman at the University of Connecticut, it was estimated that the Women's March was the largest demonstration in U.S. history.

In Washington, D.C., there was a rally prior to the march which included feminist writer Gloria Steinem, Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards, activist and professor Angela Davis, and actresses America Ferrera and Scarlett Johansson.

"While it was called the Women's March, it ended up being about so much more," freshman health sciences major Leah Cate

said. "I marched because I feel as though we have taken a step back in time. I marched because so many people fought for so long to give women the rights we have, and I was not going to stand by and watch those rights be tampered with."

Others echoed a similar sentiment as Cate. "I marched so [that] in the future, people won't think less of me because I am a woman," freshman English major Kathleen Baughan said.

There were many differing opinions on the purpose and appropriateness of the Women's March. But those who attended felt strongly about their cause.

"[The Women's March] showed that we all have a voice and should be able to accomplish the same dreams, despite how we look on the outside," freshman Emily Rance, who had yet to declare a major, said.

The event seemed to unite marchers from all over the country in the spirit of change.

"[The march was] important because it's good for people to unite and work together in the face of adversity, and we as citizens of this country need to stand up for ourselves and for others," freshman communication sciences and disorders major Caroline Fox said. "If we don't stand up for other people who are facing injustice, we'll never be truly united as a country."

While some may not have agreed with what the march stood for, many felt it sent a powerful message.

"We will always be here standing up for what we believe in," Baughan said. "Regardless of executive legislation, we aren't going anywhere, and we won't stop until we see change and equality."

WORDS: Leah Onderdonk

PHOTO: Courtesy of Senon Davis

DESIGN: Alexandra Orndahl





Opposite Left: A young girl raises up a sign during the Women's March on Washington.
Opposite Right: A police officer talks to protesters during the march.
Above: Protesters hold their signs.



SUB-RADIO

JMU STUDENT BAND OPENS FOR SMALLPOOLS DURING WINTER CONCERT

From big groups to small, Wilson Hall held them all. For the 2016 winter concert, Wilson Hall hosted alternative band, Smallpools. The group seemed to hold the crowd's attention with its mashup spin on popular songs and by performing their song, "Run With the Bulls," live for the first time.

Opening for Smallpools was a smaller band partially composed of JMU students, known as Sub-Radio. Its energetic stage presence seemed to mesh well with its take on alternative music, and allowed for a smooth transition into Smallpools' headlining performance.

"We've been together about seven years now," Matthew Prodanovich, a senior independent studies major and the lead guitarist for Sub-Radio, said. "It all starts with the songs, so we hit that heavy when we started writing ... We wanted to make sure all our stuff was good and our material was at the level that it needed to be."

Michael Chinen, a guitarist and keyboard player for Sub-Radio and a senior justice studies major, explained how it felt to open for Smallpools.

"It was honestly a dream come true," Chinen said. "Smallpools is a big influence on us, so the fact that we got to open up for them was just incredible."

Chinen continued to speak of his experience performing at Wilson.

"It feels incredible, honestly, after going here for so many years [that] right before we graduate, we actually got to perform in front of a lot of our peers," Chinen said.

Prodanovich concluded by giving some advice to other aspiring musicians.

"If anyone has any musical dreams they want to follow ... take it seriously and people will take you seriously," Prodanovich said.

After Sub-Radio parted ways with the crowd, headliner Smallpools took the stage. The set featured many songs that students were able to recognize. At one point, an inflatable killer whale was passed from person to person through the crowd. Smallpools seemed to continue energizing the crowd after Sub-Radio's opening performance.

WORDS: John Kelly

PHOTO: Catherine Burch

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic





Above: Adam Bradley, a senior and the lead singer of Sub-Radio, sings into the microphone during the winter concert.
Below Left: Senior and guitarist Michael Chinen strums away during the opening set for Sub-Radio.
Below Right: Smallpools drummer Beau Kuther provides backup vocals during the band's headlining set.



VIRGINIA21

STUDENTS MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD

As a nonpartisan organization advocating for change in higher education, Virginia21 sought to empower students within the JMU community through education and partner engagement.

Members lobbied and hosted events such as student voter registrations, as well as exhibition seminars, bringing public officials and students together to discuss current political issues.

After participating in Mark Warner's senate race during fall 2014, executive director Joshua Roesch sought out more ways to get involved in the political sphere through this organization during his freshman year.

"I chose to join because I knew that I really didn't know anything about state politics, but I wanted to," Roesch, a junior political science major, said. "Virginia21 is filled with people that care about legislation that influences people like you and I on the state level every day."

Originally having little knowledge about the subject, Roesch gained a better understanding the significance of governmental participation among young people.

"The great thing about Virginia21 is that all you have to do to join is care about these issues, even if you know little to nothing about Virginia politics and legislation like I did," Roesch said. "The organization will teach you that and show you how you can make a difference."

Every spring semester, Virginia21 participated in Lobby Day, in which members lobbied state legislatures and went door-to-door

to representatives voicing their opinions about bills that were up in the state legislature.

"We view ourselves as representatives of the entire student body that lobby legislators in Richmond on nonpartisan issues that all students care about," Roesch said. "We also do voter registration during campaign season and voter awareness by trying to bring elected officials to campus."

To join, members only had to be passionate about these issues, the most notable being sexual assault prevention and capping tuition costs. According to operations director Michael Keiter, Virginia21 was open to all students regardless of their career plans.

"We are really looking for any student of any major that is looking to make a change," Keiter, a senior majoring in biology and psychology, said. "We love when creative students come in and bring new energy to the group."

In addition to promoting civic engagement, the organization was also established to give voice to those who didn't know or didn't believe that their input impacted politics.

"No matter the outcome of an election, your voice matters. But you have to make sure that you speak so that you can be heard," Keiter said. "We definitely all want to make a change to the government and be the voice of

WORDS: Jillian Wright

PHOTO: Jillian Wright

DESIGN: Kenneth Basic

The Star-Spangled Banner stands as a symbol of American patriotism. Virginia21 aimed to involve more students in governmental issues.



STUDENTS HELPING HONDURAS

CLUB SENDS STUDENTS TO SERVE COMMUNITIES OVERSEAS

Volunteering could bring a sense of peace, accomplishment and inspiration to those who participated in it, whether it was for themselves or for others. In Students Helping Honduras, students had the opportunity to benefit the lives of others.

Philanthropy seemed to be a major part of life at JMU. Many young people wanted to be charitable and make a difference in the world, as well as gain knowledge and experience while they earned their education. SHH gave students the opportunity to accomplish these things while forming bonds with other students.

"Students Helping Honduras' mission is to end extreme poverty and violence in Honduras through education and youth empowerment," Tiffany Comerford, a fifth year senior majoring in hospitality management and business management, said. "Our goal is to build 1,000 schools for every village in Honduras that doesn't have access to an education."

The JMU chapter's objectives included raising \$15,000 in the spring of 2016 through on-campus fundraisers to build a middle school, on which they broke ground in Dec. 2015.

"We make a substantial effort to assure that we are working towards sustainable long-term change with humility," Comerford said.

SHH required work to establish and benefit college students and citizens of Honduras.

The national organization was founded in 2007, and the JMU chapter followed suit

two years later. After a mission trip to Haiti was cancelled, SHH founder Shin Fujiyama, a University of Mary Washington graduate, went to Honduras.

"On his trip, he made a goal to fund the education of one girl he met at the orphanage. After graduating from college in 2007, Shin and his sister, Cosmo, decided to start Students Helping Honduras, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that builds schools to break the cycle of extreme poverty and gang violence," Comerford said.

As the club continued to grow in size and popularity, the influence of students on campus allowed the members to make a bigger philanthropic impact.

"We have raised over \$14,000 to build the Bella Aurora Middle School that we broke ground on last winter break," Emerald Nguyen, a junior health sciences major, said. "We also raised over \$3,500 this semester to send our volunteers down to Honduras this winter."

Creating change through charity and philanthropic work could change the lives of many students, and benefit their spiritual and emotional health as well. SHH allowed members of the JMU community to make a difference in the world and, for many students, give them their first chance to do this.

WORDS: Kathleen Flowers

PHOTO: Courtesy of Students Helping Honduras

DESIGN: Abigail Mumma

A JMU student blows bubbles with a young Honduran girl. Many members of Students Helping Honduras visited the Pesca Milagrosa worksite to lend a helping hand.



OFFICER CONLEY

INTERVIEW WITH DAVID CONLEY OF THE JMU POLICE

Q: What made you want to become a police officer?

A: I didn't like the way police officers treated and talked to people, so I have spent 28 years showing cops there is a better way to treat people in the community and that developing relationships with [community members] is beneficial.

Q: What landed you at JMU? Do you like it at JMU?

A: I had been out of work for 20 months and had pretty much decided I wasn't going to do police work anymore, because I didn't like the politics of it. I came and met Chief [Lee] Shifflett and told him what I wanted to do here ... and I was blessed that he gave me the job and allowed me to do the things I have done here, as far as meeting students and creating relationships ... I love it here. I have a good record with the students, and people stop and chat with me all the time, and I have been very blessed by the relationships that have continued year after year.

Q: What previous jobs have you held?

A: I started out as a police officer in my hometown — in 1987 Shenandoah area, VA. I got in an argument with a police officer, and they would always mess with us, even when nothing was wrong. It influenced me to be a cop because I knew there had to be more to being a police officer.

Q: Did you go to college or train at the police academy?

I went to high school and the police academy and the school of hard knocks.

Q: What is your favorite and least favorite part of being a police officer?

A: My favorite part is being able to help somebody, and I try to do that every day when I come into work. I also like seeing people smile or laugh when I am on the job [and] listening to different views students and staff have on different issues. My least favorite part is having

to play the role of being a police officer or being put in that situation.

Q: What is the craziest situation you have been in on the job? Funniest?

A: The hardest call I was ever on that I remember vividly was a 16-year-old girl [who] called to say she had shot herself in the chest because her parents wouldn't stop arguing. She didn't live. It is a call I will always remember. The funniest was probably just being able to play practical jokes on people and students getting me involved with some sorority pranks and ... with the game Assassins. I got to do Greek Sing one time with Delta Gamma in 2010, and it is on YouTube.

Q: What do you like to do on a day off?

A: Just local stuff, [such as] go to 7-Eleven and talk to people early in the morning. I will take road trips to the beach, and if it is deer season, I go hunting with my daughter. I also like to do things around my house.

Q: [What has been your] proudest moment as a cop?

A: When JMU [Football] played Appalachian State [University], because they had won three championships and JMU won one. When JMU won, all the students stormed the field to the 50-yard line.

Q: [What was the] most useful skill taught to you for the job?

A: My most useful quality in life was given to me at birth, which is my heart and personality and the way I talk to people. It is something I learned in life and not for the job.

Q: What would you tell someone who is looking into being a police officer?

A: Find another line of work that you can make money at.

WORDS: Kathleen Flowers

PHOTO: Ziyu Xu

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic





Officer David Conley takes a break from directing traffic to pose for a photo. Conley had been an officer at JMU for 30 years.

SMADFEST

SENIOR MEDIA ARTS AND DESIGN MAJORS SHOWCASE SKILLS AT STUDENT FILM EXHIBIT

Whether a complex multimillion-dollar film production or simply a Snapchat story, many media arts and design students enjoyed sharing their experiences and opinions with their colleagues. SMADFEST 2016 gave SMAD seniors the opportunity to showcase that which they had learned in their major through an event that featured their motion picture creations.

"[The students] ... have talked about the gratifying experience of having an audience, ... how much they've learned through this process ... [and what] they would like to differently if they had a chance to do it again," SMAD professor Rustin Greene said.

Of the four films shown at SMADFEST, which took place on Dec. 13 at Grafton-Stovall Theatre, two employed a combination of humorous dialogue and visuals instead of focusing on more serious tones.

"[Film] is an opportunity for people to ... find a way to articulate stories that need to be told in cinema and video, using the most popular art [form] that's ever existed," Greene said.

In this way, films were often a means of expressing individual filmmakers' personalities.

"[SMADFEST] makes our school more open to different types of perspectives and different types of people," freshman social work major Katherine Martin said. "It's a good way to express creativity."

Not only was SMADFEST a means by which many students expressed their ideas and beliefs, but also it was seen as a pilot test of the skills they had learned at JMU.

"It's good for them to be able to have an audience watching them because that's what they want in the long run," Madeline Farmer, a freshman majoring in international business and modern foreign languages, said. "[It is] a way for students to see what it feels like before they set their minds to that path."

Students whose work was featured during SMADFEST also had the opportunity to be critiqued.

"It's critical to have ... a public screening of the students' work so they can see how audiences respond to what they wanted to have happen," Greene said. "Their goals are to entertain, and without an audience, there's

no way of knowing whether or not they have achieved their goals."

Some professors felt that a public viewing was a necessary component of their curriculum because this atmosphere created a more authentic experience for the filmmakers.

"When you show a film in class, you have an audience that is in a controlled environment, and ... they may not really want to be there," Greene said. "When you have a public screening, anyone is invited. ... You can be pretty confident that the people [are] coming because they want to see movies [without any] preconceived ideas or notions of what they are going to be seeing."

Each SMADFEST film displayed the filmmakers' personalities through dialogue, camera angles and actors. SMADFEST seemed to be both beneficial for the students whose work was being presented and entertaining for those who came out to support these filmmaking Dukes.

WORDS: Andrianna Boykin

PHOTO: Carrie Chang

DESIGN: Madison Ebbert



Audience members fill the seats at Grafton-Stovall Theatre for SMADFEST on Dec. 13. Four student films were showcased at the event.



Above: SMADFEST programs feature an image of a film reel.

Below: A digital sign above Grafton-Stovall Theater displays information for SMADFEST.



FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

JMU CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS VIRGINIA'S FUTURE ENGINEERS

FIRST LEGO League, an international engineering competition aimed at inspiring the next generation of technology leaders, was held in Harrisonburg in December 2016. Following four months of planning by JMU's Technology Alumni Group, Professor Dominic Swayne's class was able to facilitate a successful FIRST LEGO League for thousands of students from the Commonwealth aged 9 to 14. Swayne's class of JMU students organized the international robotic competition and divided into six committees to oversee the event.

Student participants were responsible for conducting scientific research, as well as constructing their own solutions during the team-based competition that celebrated scientific achievements at young ages.

Each year, the FIRST LEGO League agreed upon a subject-area around which all participants would conduct their research. 2016's theme was animals, and students were required to create an original robot that tied into this theme in order to be featured in the competition. One group created a robot that was a "pooper-scooper," so dog owners would no longer have to deal with cleaning up the mess themselves.

On Dec. 3, over 100 teams brought their research to the ISAT building to present to a panel of judges. Additionally, participants

created a solution that corresponded with their research. One team's solution was to invent a type of laundry detergent that also functioned as a mosquito repellant.

While the teams waited to showcase their research and solutions to the judges, the Student Activities Committee collaborated to provide additional activities for the off-time. The children were able to interact in these activities, which JMU professors led.

"I loved being a part of the Student Activities Committee because we were able to provide the participants with experiences these kids don't get everyday," senior communication studies major Hannah Brown said.

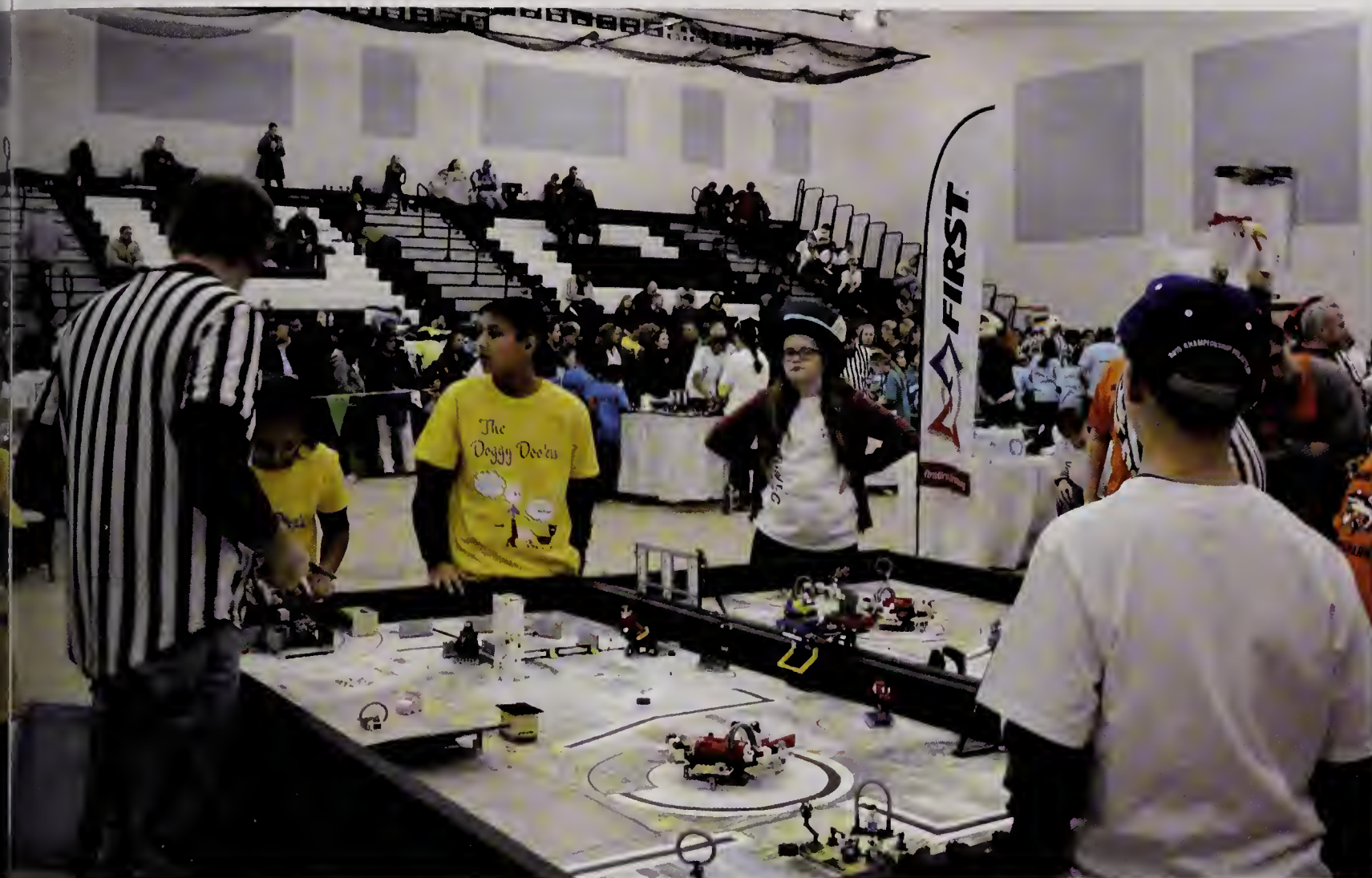
On Dec. 4, the teams gathered at Harrisonburg High School to present their robots to the judges. The high school's cafeteria was rearranged with tables to display the teams' creations.

At the end of the weekend-long competition, the League held an awards ceremony, in which every team gathered in the auditorium to watch as the top teams received trophies for their projects. The winning team qualified for the world festival, set to occur at the end of April.

WORDS: Samantha Swingle

PHOTO: Andrianna Boykin

DESIGN: Kenneth Basic



Above: At Harrisonburg High School, the Doggy Doo's team presents its robotic "pooper-scooper."



Left: Team members work together to fix any malfunctions before the next competition.

STRATFORD PLAYERS

THEATER ORGANIZATION PUTS ON STUDENT-RUN PERFORMANCES

Stratford Players was one of the oldest student organizations at JMU, founded in 1914. Members chose various studio shows to put on each semester. During the fall, Stratford Players presented three shows: “Bad Jews,” “Nathan the Wise” and “Orlando.”

To help the shows come to fruition, members participated in trips and workshops designed to help them hone their skills.

Zachary Gordon, a junior majoring in theatre and interdisciplinary liberal studies, directed “Nathan the Wise,” and took his actors to local synagogues and mosques to get a better idea of the religions their characters embodied.

“It was really exciting getting to sit with practitioners of these faiths and watch how they navigate their life,” Gordon said. “The 21st century is a very different time to be practicing their faith, versus the 12th century when the play was set—but everyone in the cast was so excited about it, and it made me very pleased with their dedication.”

Katherine Ciszek, a junior majoring in theatre and media arts and design, played the main character in “Orlando.” In order to understand the theme of the play more deeply, she and the rest of the cast participated in a workshop that involved working with masks.

“We would put on these neutral masks that covered our faces to erase our identity [and] get rid of any physical ties we might

have, because the chorus moves between genders throughout the show,” Ciszek said. “This helped [us] figure out how different characters would move, [and] how males walk differently than females.”

The organization also started an annual tradition known as “The Stratford Amazing Race,” in which members had three hours to race to various locations around campus and complete different tasks.

“It stemmed from [trying to make] ‘The Amazing Race’ a game that we all played,” Christopher Sanderson, a senior majoring in theatre and media arts and design, said.

Stratford Players strove to create an environment of creativity and friendship.

“I think Stratford is special because it’s not something you go to do once a week; this is your family, and this is the space [in which] you’re allowed to get together with the members of your family that you want to be creating art with,” Gordon said.

While putting on a show seemed to involve a lot of work, the Stratford Players used their talents to come together and create visual art for the JMU community.

WORDS: Gabriela Baker

PHOTO: University Marketing
Photography Department

DESIGN: Alexandra Rathjens



Forbes Center for the Performing Arts sits at the end of the Quad area, directly across from Wilson Hall. Forbes was home to many who would perform and learn within its walls.

VIRTUAL REALITY CLASS

STUDENTS IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN NEW TECHNOLOGY

Jump scares, new worlds and digital paint brushes — virtual reality put a creative twist on technology. The new virtual reality class at JMU aimed to educate students on the many ways to use the latest technology. Chris Wren, the CEO of WrenAR and a former EA Games producer, taught the class through video chat while teaching students in person at George Mason University.

Skylar Wolen, a senior majoring in finance and computer information systems, worked with Dominic Swayne, an X-Labs professor, to craft the class.

“Last spring, I took place in a hack-a-thon and our team decided to create a virtual reality submission to help people overcome their phobias,” Wolen said. “Since then, [Swayne] ... approached me, and [we] thought it would be a great idea to start a virtual reality class here at JMU. Last semester, I actually taught a class of nine kids to see what we can and can't do while teaching virtual reality, and from there we created this class.”

Every student had the opportunity to rent a Utopia 360° headset, along with a new Galaxy S7 phone, to download class projects and watch VR experiences.

“Sometimes we'll have the headsets on to practice what we're doing, [and] if we actually

build stuff, we'll try [the software] out,” Wolen said. “If not, then we'll watch [Wren].”

This technical class could be implemented artistically as well. Students were given a variety of assignments that made use of VR headsets, from crafting video games to building VR experiences using Unity 5.5, an animation software.

“Just watching the VR movies on the headsets is incredible, because as you're watching it, [you get] to see different aspects of the scene, [and have] your own focus on the movie that's not just pointed in one direction,” Brigitte Criqui, a junior majoring in graphic design and studio art, said. “But you're able to completely immerse yourself within the reality and check out different things going on.”

This class aimed to inform those enrolled on how to interface with the latest technology. Virtual reality was a cutting edge course for JMU students who sought to blend science and art.

WORDS: Dominique Dean

PHOTO: Ziyu Xu

DESIGN: Ingrid Basheda



Left: Senior Skylar Wolen explains the equipment used during the virtual reality class.

Below: Sophomore Cassandra Hagstoz demonstrates the virtual reality equipment.



MODEL FOR THE WORLD

MODEL UNITED NATIONS SHOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATING IN DEBATE

The Model United Nations began as a club with five members in 2013, and had doubled in size by 2016. Influenced by the creativity and cognizance of the organization, Andrew Ledman, club president and senior business management major, sought to influence the club's growth.

One of the new aspects Ledman added to the organization were mock conferences. The conferences were held at JMU for universities across the country to get practice for debates that replicated those held by the official United Nations.

"The mock conference is an idea the officers and I came up with ourselves," Ledman said. "We assign our members issues that they have to solve in the same parliamentary procedure as they would in an actual committee conference."

Members represented different countries in the United Nations, embodied different perspectives on the issues and created solutions to the problems at hand.

"My favorite part of the mock conferences was the ability to meet people from around the country that came from different schools," Zachary Alvarado, a

sophomore majoring in international affairs and modern foreign languages, said. "Seeing the collective nature of everyone who wishes for an end in famine, war or death, even if only in simulation, does make me believe that there are people who will change this world."

In addition to the mock conferences, the club held a mock debate inspired by the 2016 presidential election.

"We divided the members into two different groups: Trump and Clinton," Ledman said. "We had an actual debate going on where each person had questions and responses, crosstalk and then questions from the audience."

Both sides tried to exaggerate the features of the candidates, creating a humorous tone to the debate.

"It was hilarious to see how we could overplay some of their traits," Alvarado said.

The club sought to expand its reach in the years to come, with hopes to host its own conference here at JMU.

WORDS: Gabriela Baker

PHOTO: Sydney Kane

DESIGN: China Boynes

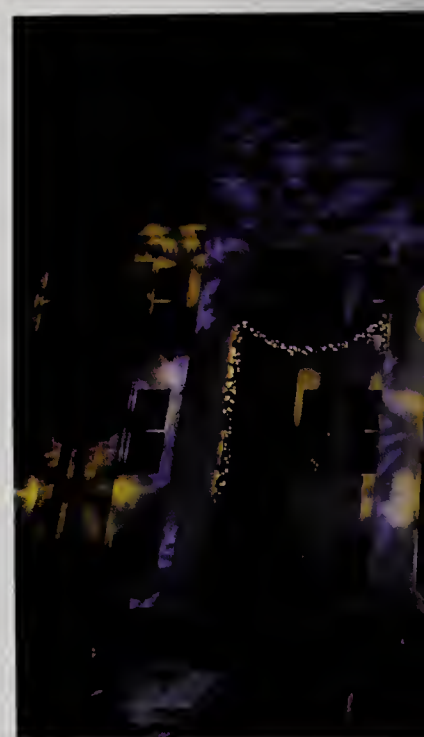
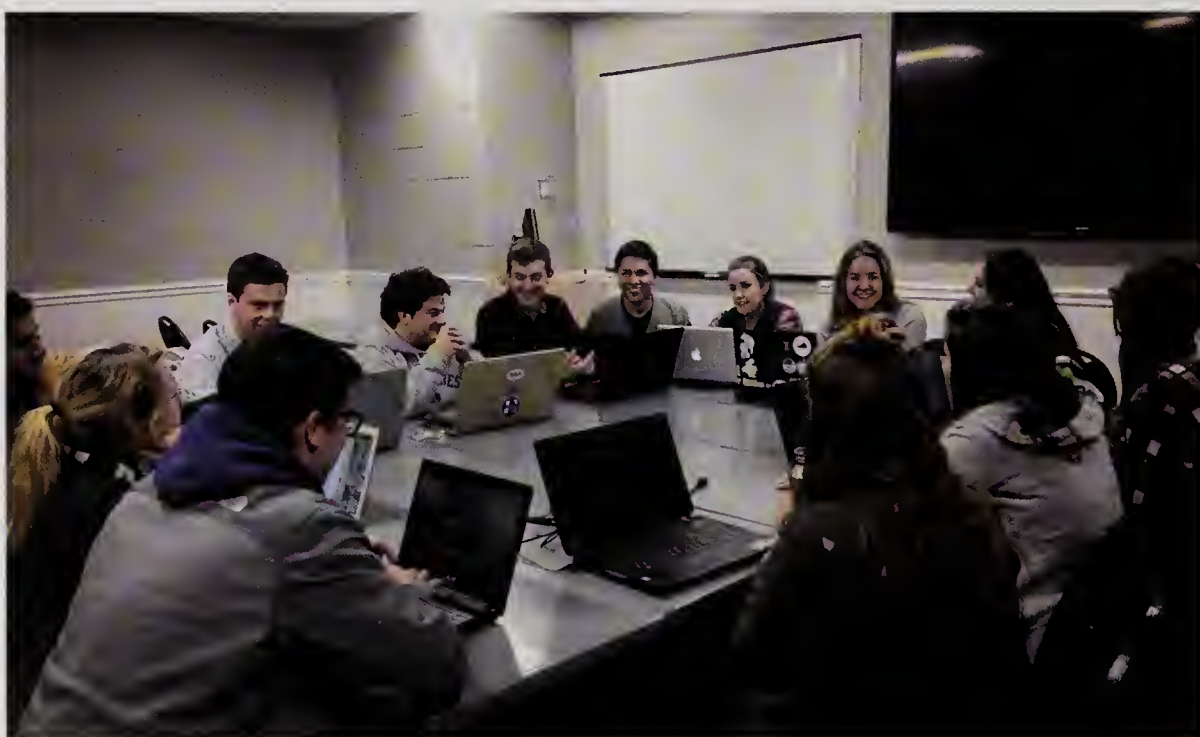


Senior Andrew Ledman serves as president of the Model United Nations Club.



Above: Mozaic Dance Team performs at the annual Holiday Tree Lighting. The Student Government Association put on the event every year.

Below Left: The SGA sits together as a team for a meeting.
Below Right: Wilson Hall is decorated with holiday lights. The building was decked out in lights and garland each year.





STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

GROUP PLANS EVENTS AND ENACTS LAWS TO CREATE A SAFER CAMPUS

The Student Government Association operated much like the United States federal government, with executive officers, senators, representatives and committees. But unlike the federal government, those involved in JMU's SGA were students who took the same classes, studied in the same libraries and ate at the same locations as those whom they represented.

Matthew Mueller, a senior political science major, played the role of public figurehead as SGA's student body president.

Mueller cited a desire to "connect with students more" as being a top priority for SGA, and did so with committees that focused on different subjects pertinent to students.

SGA consisted of six committees: university services, academic affairs, community engagement, legislative action, finance and membership. Students were able to witness the results of committee members' work in many forms.

Planning for The Big Event fell under the community engagement committee's umbrella. Meanwhile, the academic affairs committee looked into creating reading days before finals.

"Obviously, that wouldn't happen for the next two years, but we're looking at getting that instituted for the future," Mueller said.

The legislative action committee also worked to increase voter registration across campus, particularly among freshmen.

Mueller and the legislative action chair, senior political science major Renzo Olivari, stood "outside [the Convocation Center] from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. [on Nov. 8, 2016] helping out students as they were going in to vote."

Mueller had also worked with former JMU SGA presidents and Congressman Robert Goodlatte to bring the university's namesake to Washington, D.C.

"A personal goal of mine that's coming from the president's level of SGA is ... trying to get a monument to James Madison built in [Washington] D.C.," Mueller said.

For the 2017 spring semester, the student body seemed to look forward to the sophomore class council presenting their class ring premiere, as well as a day of lobbying in Richmond, Va. on Feb. 1. Students not affiliated with SGA were able to apply to attend.

In previous years, bills for which SGA lobbied included preventative measures against tuition hikes, as well as bills supporting a more seamless voter registration process.

Regarding sexual assaults, SGA was in favor of a bill requiring that campus police hold physical evidence recovery kits for a minimum of two years, which was not mandated at the time.

"That way, if the survivor decided to press criminal charges later down the road, the evidence would still be there," Mueller said.

While members of SGA were students themselves, they still required the varied opinions and scopes of experiences within the JMU community in order to improve life on campus.

"We can't function without student opinion," Mueller said. "Our job is to represent the student voice."

SGA gave students the opportunity to make an impact on the future of the university, paving the way for generations of Dukes to come.

WORDS: Hayley Verdeyen

PHOTO: Alexis Painter, DePaul Straub and Courtesy of the Student Government Association

DESIGN: Alexandra Orndahl

MUSIC VISUALIZED

ART GALLERY BRIDGES GAP BETWEEN MUSIC AND VISUAL ART

Many students knew about the art gallery in Duke Hall and the artWorks Gallery on Grace Street. Others walked through the art galleries in Festival on a regular basis.

However, many did not know that there was another art gallery on JMU's campus—the Little Gallery Underground—which was found in the Music Building's library.

Karen Snively, director of the gallery, started the project because she was interested in having artwork up on display in the music library.

"Our goal is to display works that have some connection to music," Snively said. "Sometimes the connection is really obvious."

One of the fall collections, "2016 in Rock 'n' Roll," featured photography by Bob Adamek. This collection was a series of photos from the music festivals and concerts Adamek attended throughout the year.

The gallery's art collections were changed four times per academic year. Various displays featured work from faculty, students and other artists.

"Our vision is to feature artists both within and outside of JMU," Snively said.

The majority of the artwork was for sale, so patrons interested in decorating their room or home could purchase artwork from local artists.

Some students who were regularly in the music library embraced seeing the artwork on display. Senior music education major Kara Levchenko's favorite display featured the Marching Royal Dukes.

"It had a lot of marching band photos and was mainly focused on students in the music department," Levchenko said.

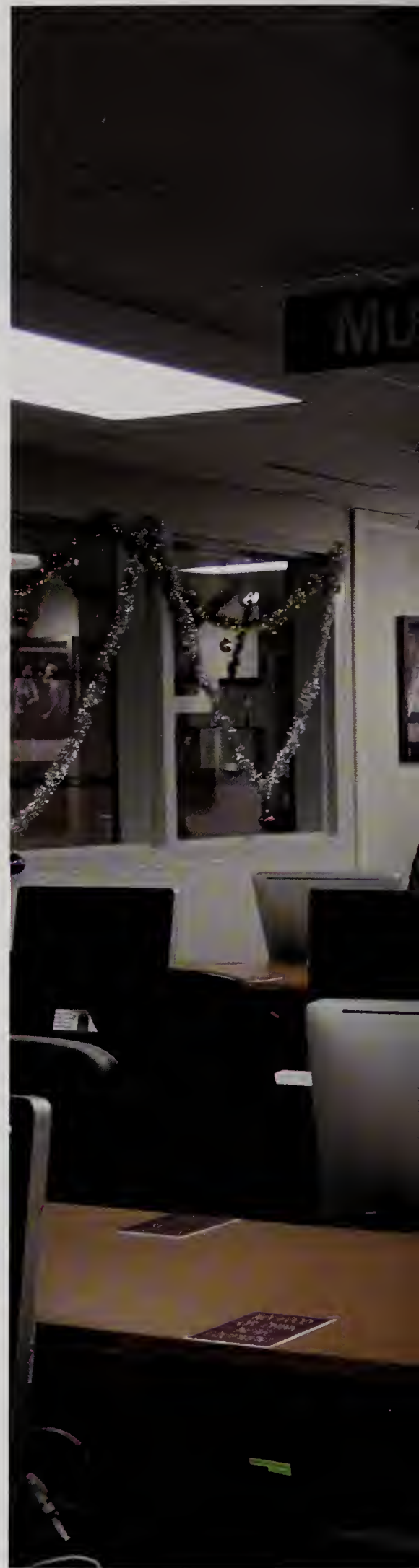
The Little Gallery Underground provided students with another place on campus to enjoy art, and its doors remained open for new visitors to wander in.

WORDS: Jasmine Tillman

PHOTO: DePaul Straub

and Rebecca Reid

DESIGN: Marissa Scholler



Below: Surrounded by music icons, students work on computers in the Music Building's library. The Little Gallery put up images with a connection to music. Opposite: Photography and artwork are displayed on the walls of the Little Gallery. Karen Snively served as the gallery's director.





UNDERGRADUATES BEGIN ENTREPRENEURIAL CAREERS

Many college students struggled with a tight budget that required Ramen for dinner and pizza for breakfast. However, for student entrepreneurs who ran businesses while working toward their bachelor's degrees, budgeting was a different game. Some students served as the CEO of their own businesses, the masterminds behind ideas or promoters for different companies.

Eric Ransom, a junior media arts and design major and the CEO of Sandy Cove, was inspired to start his own company when he purchased a seemingly overpriced Vineyard Vines T-shirt and realized that he had only bought it for the name. He then created an apparel company that offered beach-themed designs for less than many of his competitors.

"Sandy Cove is [a] casual apparel company, which basically embodies the surf and beach lifestyle," Ransom said. "All of our products are made in the USA, are eco-friendly and are of the top quality. I've personally designed every design by hand, and we sell our products at nearly half the price of our competition."

Ransom planned to continue his business for another five to 10 years, before pursuing

his passion for filmmaking. He recognized that success in business often meant sacrifices and hard work.

"The best way to create a business is to put in the work, understand the risks and make it what you want it to be," Ransom said. "Do it with integrity and pride, because you have to want this if it's going to work out in the end."

Sometimes a passion led to an idea for something greater. Akram Abdou, a senior integrated science and technology major, acquired an interest for cell phone applications, specifically those that ran on the Apple operating system.

Abdou taught himself how to create these apps, and eventually crafted one of his own, called Presence. It was a virtual reality community in which users could share their 360 degree photos and videos with other users.

"I want to revolutionize the way 360 degree photographers contain their media, giving them this app to share their photos and videos on their phones," Abdou said. "Hopefully, Presence can popularize 360 degree photos and videos, unlike other platforms that have failed to separate 360 degree from two-dimensional media."

Abdou believed that if an idea had potential, it should be developed to form something greater.

"JMU is full of intelligent students that can do anything a college graduate can do, so it's important to use this time to have fun with any ideas you may have," Abdou said.

Some students started their businesses after being inspired by others' successes. Daniel Aramayo, a junior integrated science and technology major, was inspired by a men's clothing store in Richmond, which led him to begin working with a local printing press to resell popular brands and make startup capital for the company itself.

"I can see this company turning into a brand that releases a couple pieces here and there, but mainly focuses on the reselling aspect of fashion," Aramayo said.

Aramayo started with a customer base, solely through advertising on the internet, but he planned to expand by setting up a pop-up shop on campus.

WORDS: Jacqueline Garcia

PHOTO: Courtesy of Eric Ransom

DESIGN: Kenneth Basic

Opposite: A close up of a few of the Sandy Cove t-shirts
Below: A student models one of the company's t-shirts.

"JMU IS FULL OF
INTELLIGENT
STUDENTS THAT CAN
DO ANYTHING
A COLLEGE GRADUATE CAN DO"

40 Years of HDPT

HARRISONBURG DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION HOLDS DESIGN CONTEST

In 1976, the Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation began providing its services around the city, with buses that brought students from one side of campus to the other, and residents to various destinations around Harrisonburg. In honor of the 40th anniversary of HDPT, the department held a contest for a new exterior bus design that showcased how the service had changed over the years. Haley Nininger, a junior majoring in marketing and media arts and design, won the contest with a design that featured a photo of a JMU sunset, with images of HDPT buses throughout the years in the foreground. For nearly half a century, HDPT endeavored to make transportation more convenient for all members of the community.

WORDS: Michelle Criqui

PHOTO: Alexis Painter and Sydney Kane

DESIGN: Abigail Mumma





HDPT

YEARS

hdpt.com

Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation buses take students around campus. In 2016, HDPT celebrated its 40th anniversary.



Above: The clay target team poses for a picture at the Radford University Valentine's Day shoot in 2016. The team traveled to various competitions across the region.
Right: A member of the clay target team takes aim. One of the main focuses of the group was practicing safe shooting skills.



CLAY TARGET TEAM

ORGANIZATION AIMS TO PRACTICE SAFE SHOOTING SKILLS

For Kyle Albert, a sophomore computer science major and president of JMU's clay target team, safety always came first.

"[In] the first practice anyone goes through, we go over how to safely operate your shotgun in the competitive environment," Albert said.

Beyond learning how to safely handle a gun, Albert stated that team members also learned how to perfect the "form and technique required to not miss a single target."

The clay target team practiced weekly, usually at Shenandale Gun Club, which was one of the oldest gun clubs in America. The team also participated in several competitions per semester, with the final Association of College Unions International Collegiate Clay Target Championships taking place in the spring.

"Competing against other teams is fun, and almost everyone performs their best because they want to show that their school is the best," Albert said.

For Albert, the hardest part of clay target shooting was the concentration it required.

"[Shooting] sounds pretty easy, but it's actually very difficult," Albert said.

Emily Suprynowicz, a junior nursing major, had a different experience as a member of the team.

"I am the only girl on the clay target team, and one of the few at the competitions we attend, but I get treated just the same as everyone else," Suprynowicz said. "The boys are like my big brothers and the coaches act like my dads."

Both Suprynowicz and Albert noted the difficulty of concentrating on moving targets when shooting. For Suprynowicz, getting used to holding her gun correctly and shooting accurately throughout various times of day with differing backgrounds was challenging.

She stated that, despite being on the team for nearly a year, aiming was still something she had not mastered completely.

One of the aspects Suprynowicz liked most about the team was that it was her "little escape from school."

Although clay target shooting seemed to be a sport about which many were unaware, the club encouraged students from all backgrounds to give it a shot.

WORDS: Julia Shawver

PHOTO: Courtesy of Clay Target Team

DESIGN: Ingrid Basheda

ROY

WOOD JR.

UPB SPRING COMEDIAN BRINGS LAUGHS TO WILSON AUDITORIUM

Burdened by a delayed plane and a speeding ticket to match, Roy Wood Jr. took the stage with a whimsical stride, bringing laughter to the late-night JMU audience. Wood started the night off by running onto the stage, ad libbing jokes about his own late arrival, much to the delight of the waiting crowd.

"One or two groups left [the event], but at least I am happy that I stayed," Daniel Hawes, a senior computer science major, said.

Wood held the attention of Wilson Hall's occupancy with his seemingly limitless display of jokes that ran off the top of his head. Reading the crowd, Wood was able to relate with the students in the audience by recounting stories from his own days in college. The hilarity that ensued brought about a thunderous laughter throughout the auditorium.

The news of Wood's appearance brought multiple students out for their first Wilson show. Seth Davis, a freshman political science major, was one such student who was excited to come out to see the comedian.

"The only reason this was my first Wilson show was because it was Roy Wood Jr.," Davis

said. "I had to do a double-take when I read the email, and I was like, 'What — the Roy Wood Jr.? Oh my God, okay.'"

Adam Robb, a junior writing, rhetoric and technical communication major, also shared his experiences at his first Wilson show.

"This is my first stand-up comedian show that I've ever been to," Robb said. "I think he did a really good job relating to college students."

Wood seemed to be best known from his role as a correspondent on "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah." He was also labeled as one of "Variety Magazine's" Top 10 Comics to Watch in 2016.

"They do a great job on 'The Daily Show,'" Robb said, after meeting the comedian following the show. "He's a really friendly guy. You know, he doesn't seem like he's really bothered or anything. He's just chill."

Even though Wood showed up over an hour late, the crowd still cheered and laughed along with his energetic routine.

WORDS: John Kelly

PHOTO: Dominique Dean

DESIGN: China Boynes

Roy Wood Jr. takes the stage of Wilson Hall on Feb. 10, 2017. Audience members seemed to enjoy his comedy routine despite his unanticipated delay.



BREWERIES DOWNTOWN

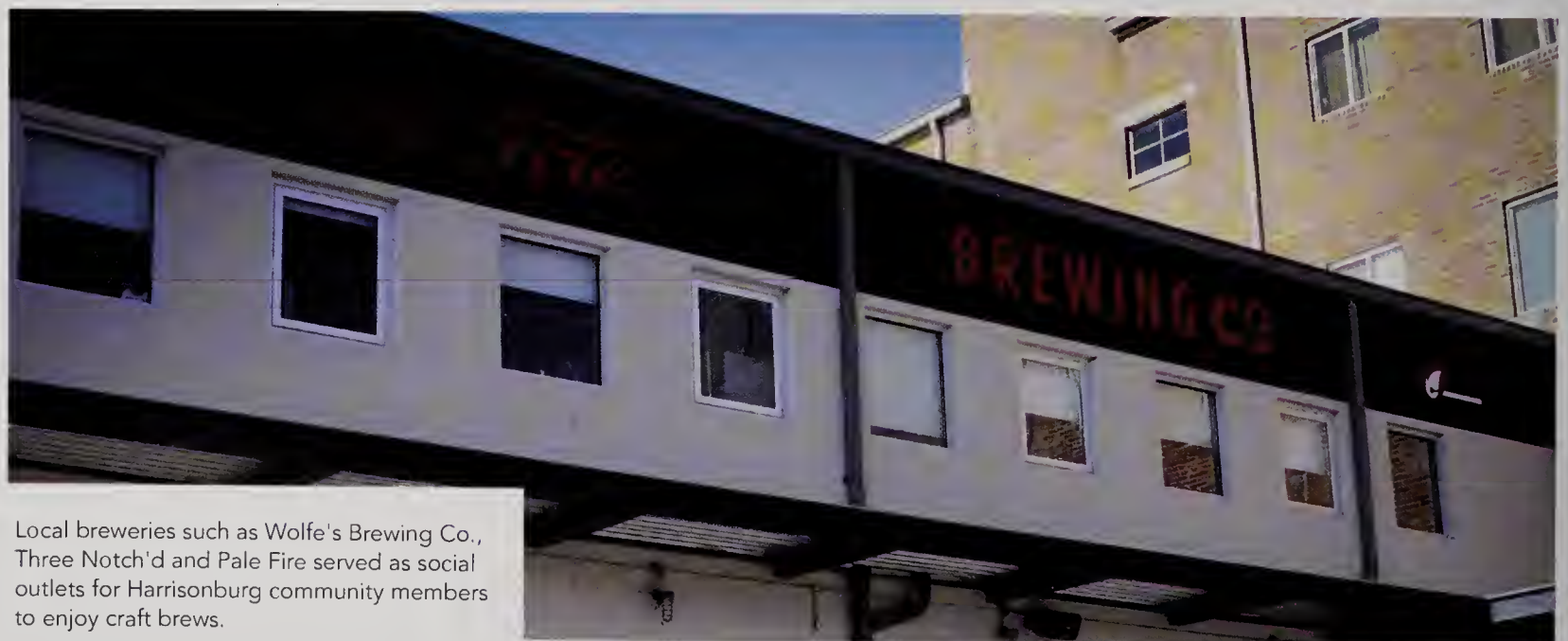
HARRISONBURG LOCATIONS PROVIDE VARIETY OF CRAFT BEER

Whether of-age Dukes went out for a relaxing night sipping craft beers with a few friends or to enjoy an energetic live music event, Harrisonburg offered three breweries in the heart of its downtown. One of the more popular locations for students to frequent, Pale Fire Brewing Co., offered seasonal beers as well as recurring “flagships.” Three Notch’d Brewing Company and Brothers Craft Brewing also offered seasonal as well as regular craft brews. While the three locations were different in their own ways, they each offered events and live music throughout the year for students and Harrisonburg residents alike to enjoy with beverages in hand. It seemed that with the upswing of the Downtown Renaissance, craft breweries were taking Harrisonburg by storm.

WORDS: Hannah Adams

PHOTO: Alexis Painter

DESIGN: Alexandra Rathjens



Local breweries such as Wolfe's Brewing Co., Three Notch'd and Pale Fire served as social outlets for Harrisonburg community members to enjoy craft brews.



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SUITE 101

GAP YEAR ON AN ORGANIC FARM

MATTHEW PARSONS TRAVELS WITH WWOOF

For students seeking experiences outside the classroom, World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms was available. This organization, also known as WWOOF, offered students opportunities to live abroad, work on organic farms, access free food and shelter and meet new people in different parts of the world. Matthew Parsons, a freshman computer science major, said he was excited to try this cheaper way to travel and see what it was all about.

Parsons communicated over the internet beforehand with the people he was going to meet, but he ultimately made this international leap on his own. He faced a few challenges while traveling, like not being able to get in touch with one of his hosts once arriving in France. But with the help of a stranger in a restaurant, who gave him some juice and connected him with his host, Parsons realized he would be able to get by.

During his time abroad, he worked on a dairy and vegetable farm in France, as well

as in an isolated area in Sweden. Aside from cleaning out cow stables at the dairy farm, “which was definitely an unsavory kind of work,” he mostly performed manual labor, foraging on the farms.

“It’s hard to favor one [job] over the other,” Parsons said.

He enjoyed experiencing the Swedish culture and language, and was equally excited to go to France to interact with new people and practice some of his French.

However, his time in different countries was not just composed of work. He volunteered on the farms five days a week for five hours a day, so he had time off to go exploring. For Parsons, hiking was a must in the forests of Sweden, as well as in the mountainous areas of France.

“There were cliffs everywhere, and waterfalls,” Parsons said. “It was really incredible to look at.”

He also made his way into the surrounding towns in France with a couple of

friends he had met on the farm. In addition to hiking, Parson’s favorite activity was visiting old churches.

“[There is] incredible architecture and art inside, and there’s [a] good ambience to them,” Parsons said.

One of the most significant lessons, Parsons learned while abroad was how to put himself out there, be social and make friends. He met many people on his trip and planned to keep in touch with them. He looked forward to future opportunities with WWOOF and hoped to venture further east, “outside of the Western Europe comfort zone.”

WORDS: Chelsea Church

PHOTO: Andrianna Boykin

and Courtesy of Matthew Parsons

DESIGN: Ingrid Basheda



Above: Freshman Matthew Parsons poses for a photo. Parsons worked on an organic farm in France.
Below Left: A stable at Tivedstorp in Sweden sits quietly in a dusting of snow.
Below Right: A dog plays down by a lake down the hill from the Dairy Farm at which Parsons worked.

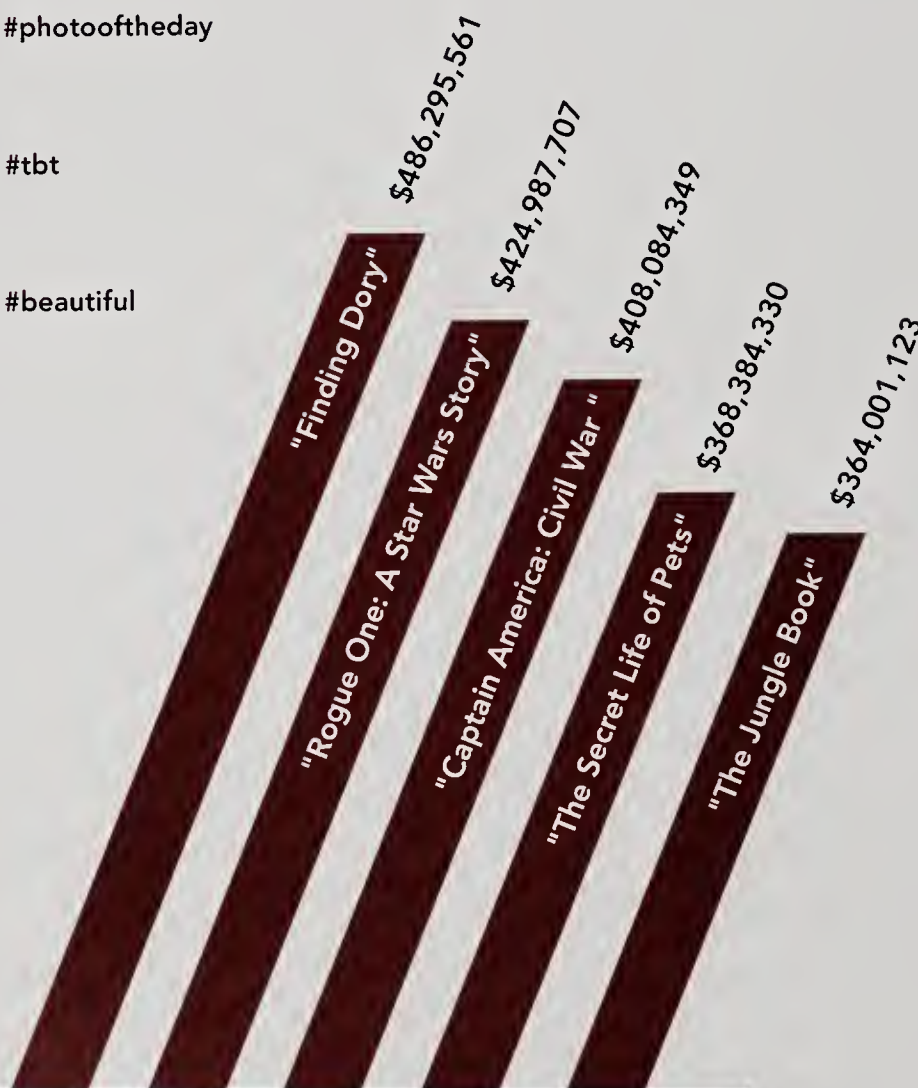


2016 IN REVIEW

TOP 5 HIGHEST RATED TELEVISION SHOWS AMONG VIEWERS AGED 18-49

TOP 5 INSTAGRAM HASHTAGS

- #1 #love
- #2 #instagood
- #3 #photooftheday
- #4 #tbt
- #5 #beautiful



TOP 5 GROSSING MOVIES

"The
Walking Dead"
11.27M Viewers

"The Big Bang
Theory"
6.99M Viewers

"Empire"
6.79M Viewers

"Game of
Thrones"
6.73M Viewers

"The X-Files"
6.09M Viewers

TOP 5 MOST POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITES

Facebook

1,790,000,000 (51.2%)

YouTube

1,000,000,000 (28.6%)

Instagram

500,000,000 (14.3%)

Twitter

313,000,000 (9.0%)

Reddit

234,000,000 (6.7%)

TOP 10 TOPICS WE COULDN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT

1. The Phenomenon: Beyoncé's "Lemonade"
2. The Oscar: Leonardo DiCaprio for "The Revenant"
3. The Binge: "Stranger Things"
4. The Books: "My Brilliant Friend" by Elena Ferrante and "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead
5. The Controversy: #OscarsSoWhite
6. The Albums: Drake's "Views" and Kanye West's "The Life of Pablo"
7. The Miniseries: "The Night Manager" and "The Night Of"
8. The Song: "Closer" by The Chainsmokers feat. Halsey
9. The Movie: "Moonlight"
10. The Network TV: "Westworld" and "This Is Us"

TOP 5 MOST POPULAR SONGS

#1
"Love Yourself"
Justin Bieber

#2
"Sorry"
Justin Bieber

#3
"One Dance"
Drake ft. WizKid
& Kyla

#4
"Work"
Rihanna ft.
Drake

#5
"Stressed Out"
Twenty One
Pilots

THROUGH YOUR LENS

WINNERS OF STUDENT-SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

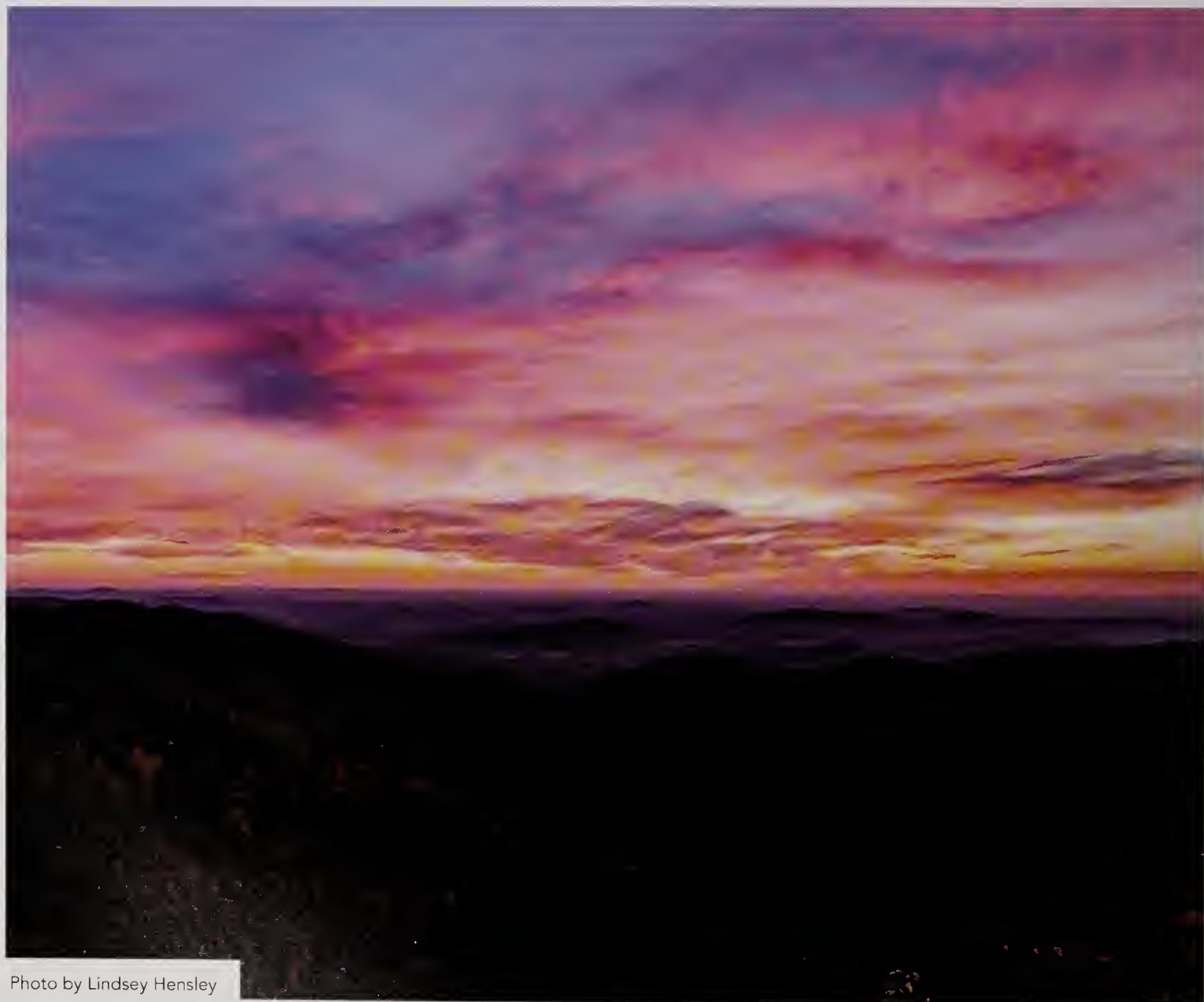


Photo by Lindsey Hensley



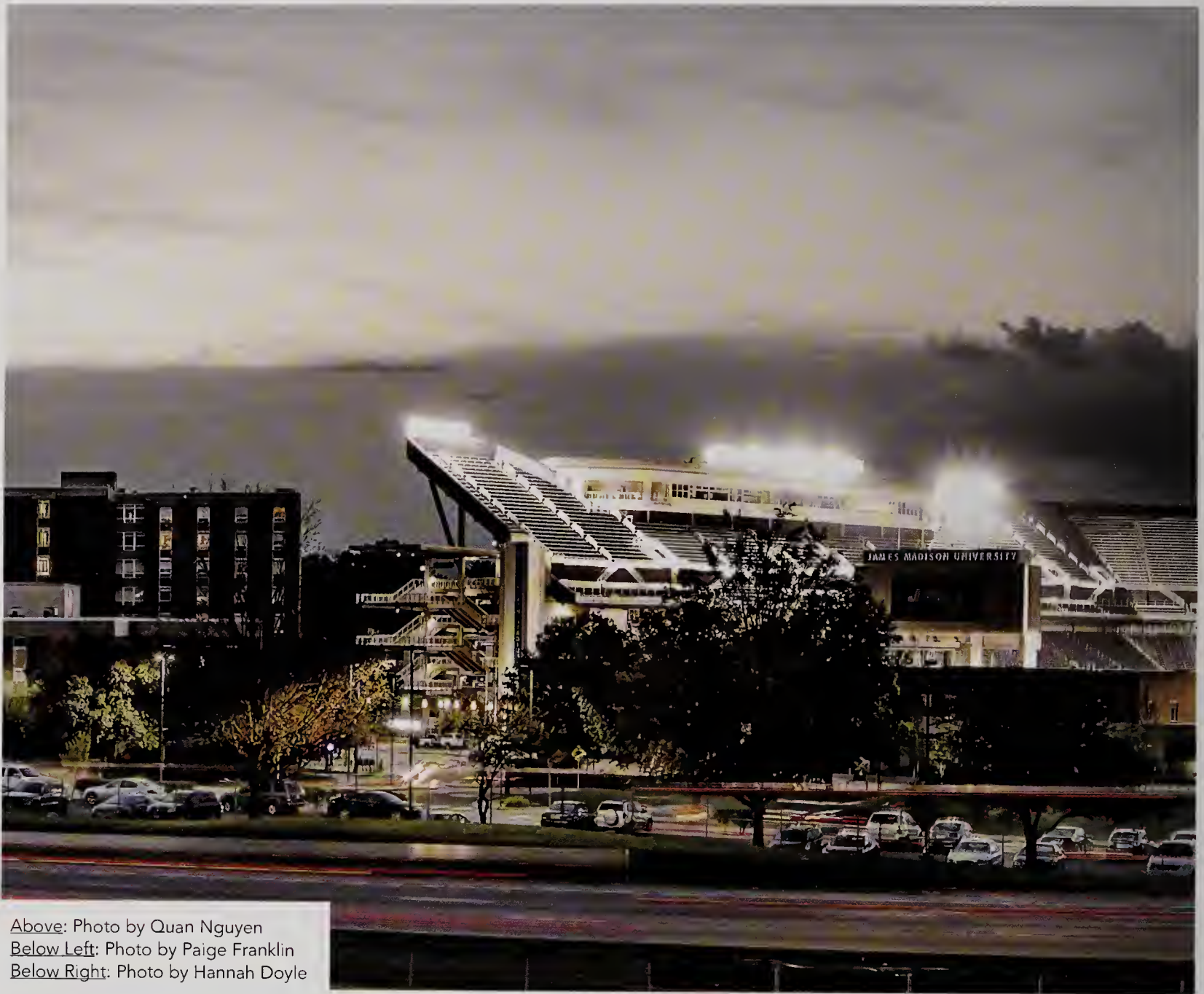
Above Left: Photo by Peter Jackson
Above Right: Photo by Rebecca Reid
Below: Photo by Charles Lowrance III

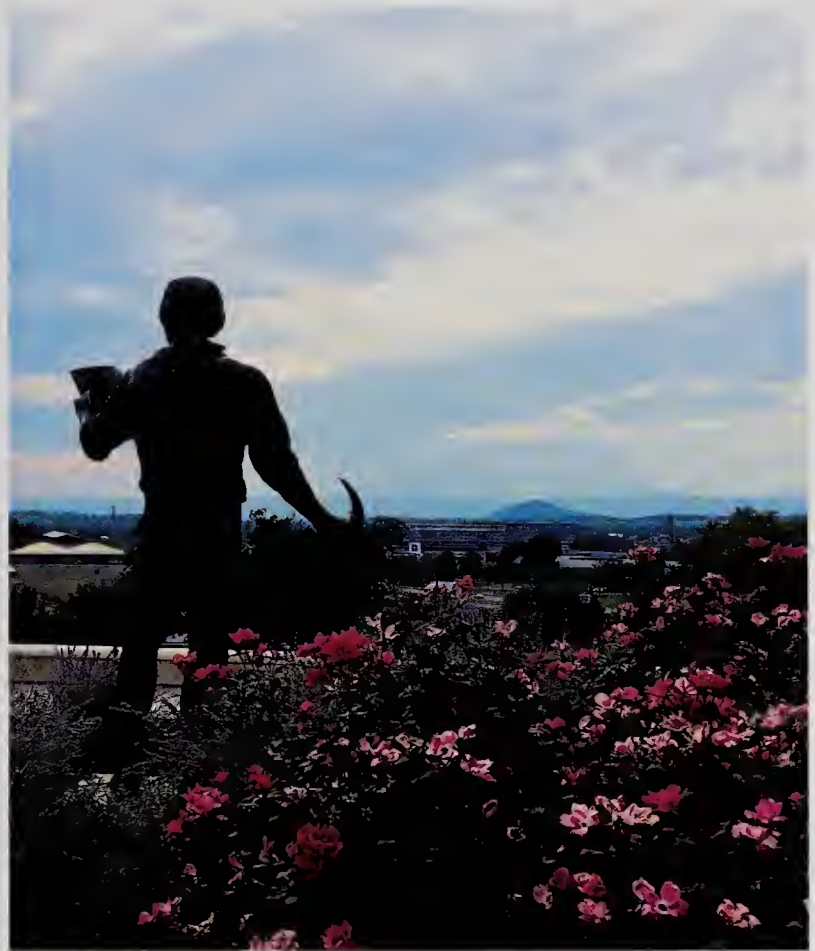
Below: Photo by Dominique Dean
Below Left: Photo by Joseph Plauger
Below Right: Photo by Kyle Mangine



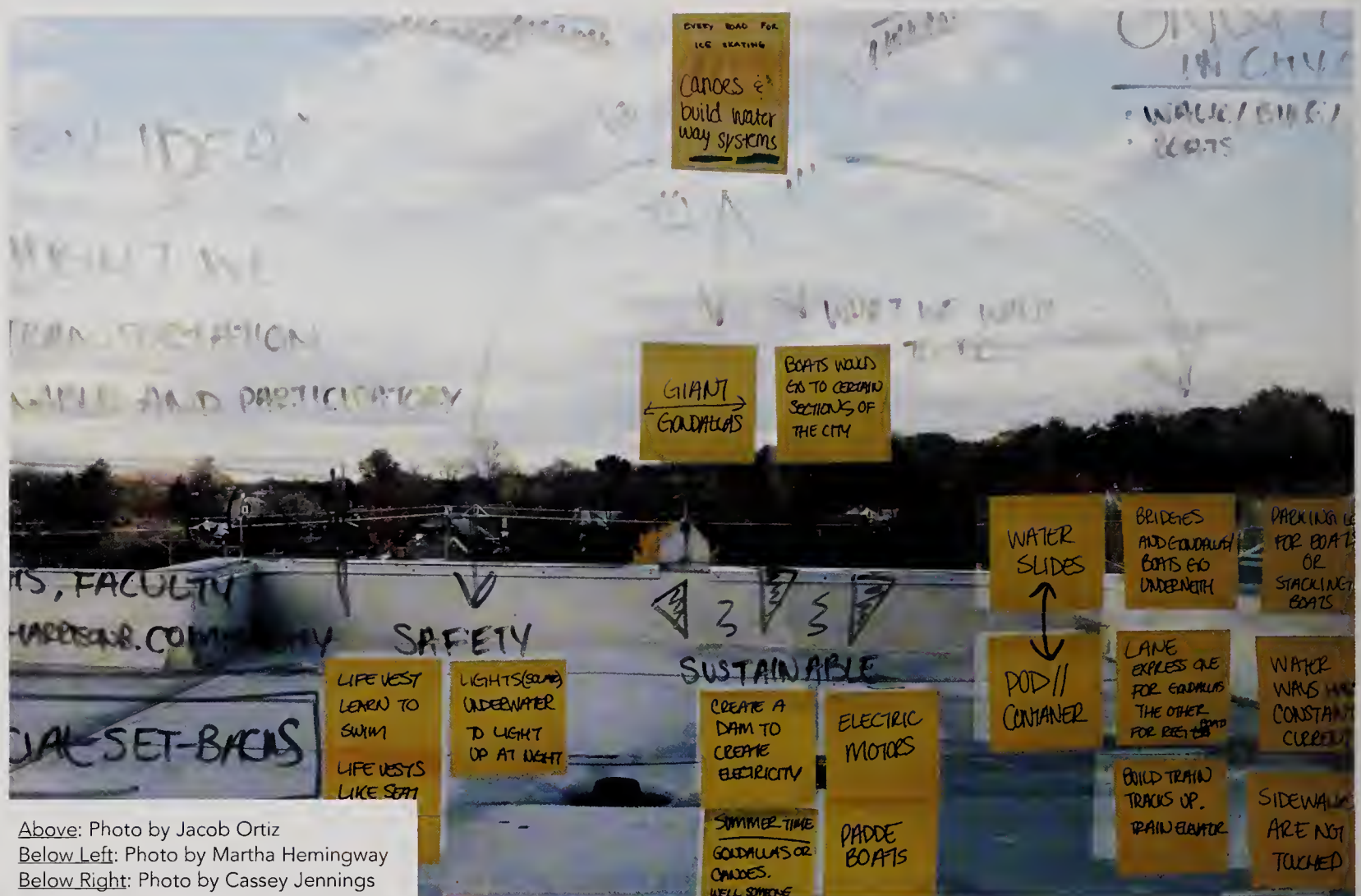


Photo by Morgan Boswell





Above Left: Photo by Christopher Kang
Above Right: Photo by Cassey Jennings
Below: Photo by Zeyu Ju



Above: Photo by Jacob Ortiz

Below Left: Photo by Martha Hemingway

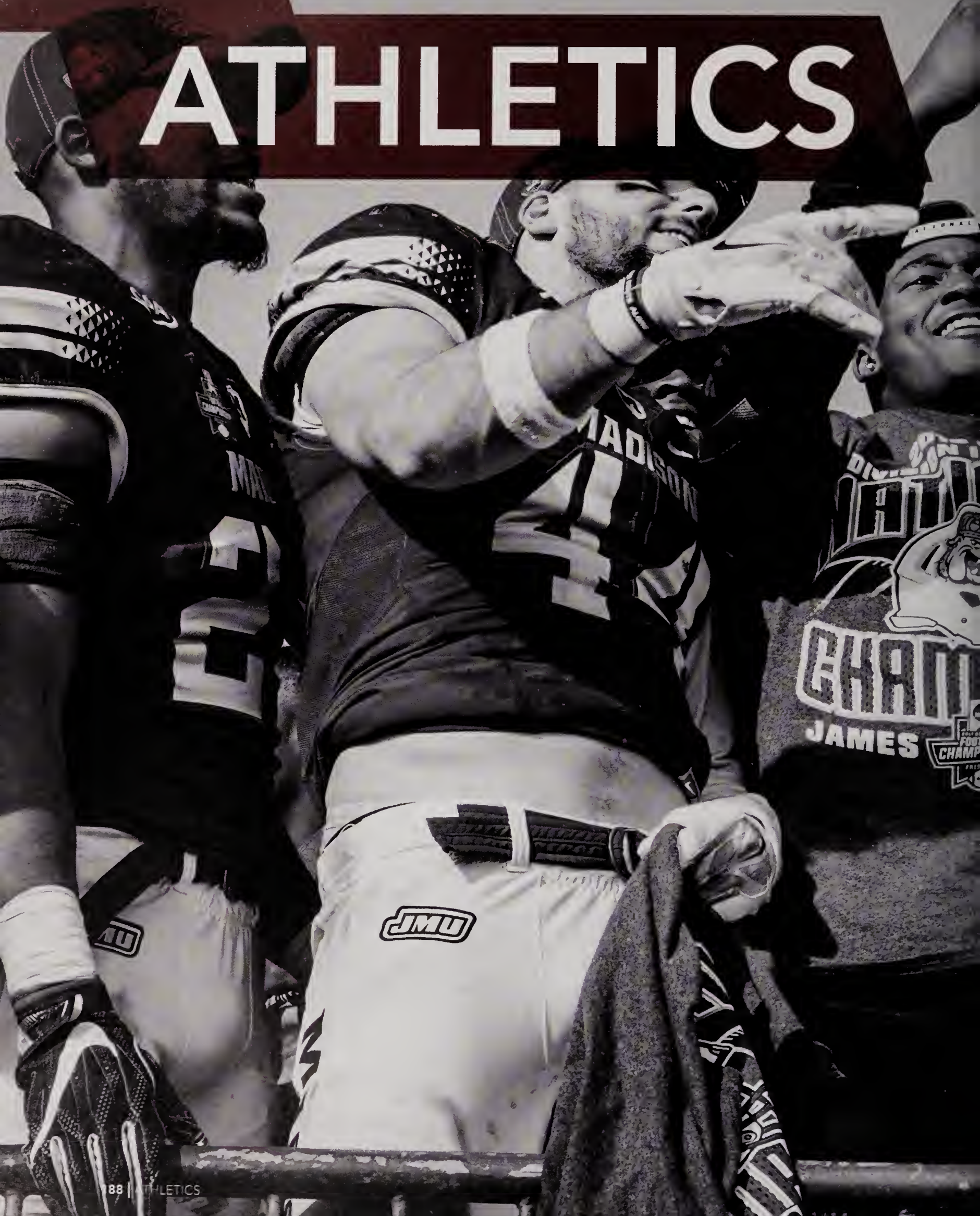
Below Right: Photo by Cassey Jennings

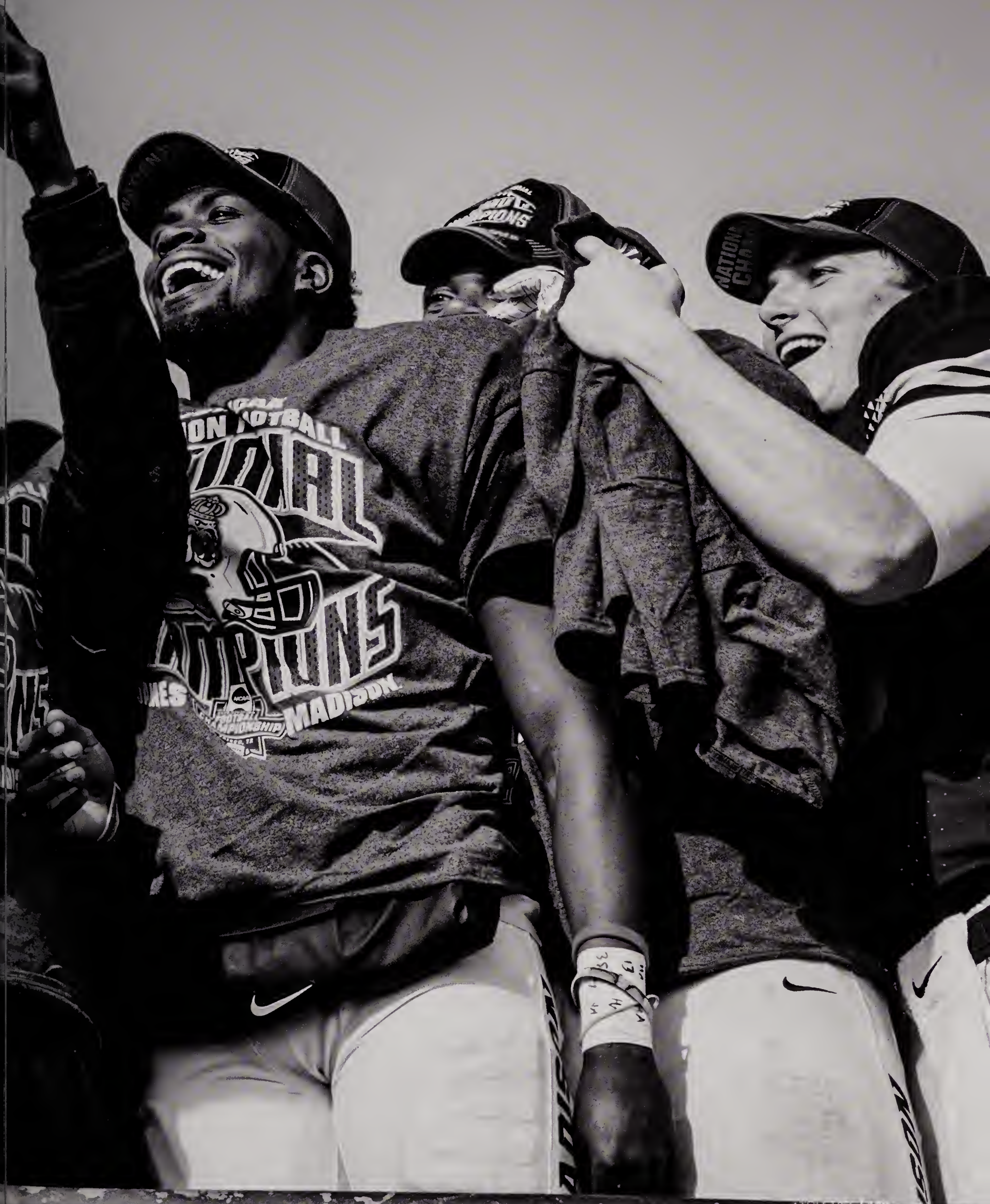




Above: Photo by Rebecca Reid
Below: Photo by Alexis Painter

ATHLETICS







Sophomore Kyle McPherson takes off toward first base after a swing. The team had a new head coach during the 2016 season.



Left: Patrick Toohers, a 2016 graduate, pitches during a baseball game.
Right: The JMU baseball team huddles up during a game.



SWING FOR THE FENCES

JMU BASEBALL WORKS TOWARD A WINNING SEASON

With the start of the JMU baseball team's 2016 season came a new coaching style. Following the 2015 season, Joe "Spanky" McFarland retired after 18 years of coaching, and Marlin Ikenberry took over as head coach.

At the beginning of the 2016 season, Ikenberry introduced four pillars by which the team should operate: play hard, play fast, play with energy and always compete. The players seemed to strive to play their hardest with these pillars in mind.

The team often had tough competition, but they won 24 games out of a total of 55, and senior communications major Ky Parrott broke the single season walk record.

By the end of the non-conference games, the Dukes were one of the top six teams that advanced to the Colonial Athletic Association tournament starting on March 25.

A highlight of this tournament took place during the weekend of May 13 through May 15, during which the Dukes played against the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, the 2015 CAA champions. By the eighth inning, JMU was down by two runs. Zachary Tondi, a junior accounting major, stepped up to the plate and hit a two-run home run, tying up the game 4-4.

"This was one of my favorite moments of the season," senior marketing major Brandon Withers said. "The tournament games are more exciting and intense because you know everything is on the line, and every play matters."

The team placed fourth overall in the CAA tournament.

"This was exciting for both the team and myself," Ikenberry said. "As a coach, I want the team to play their best ball at the end of the season."

Not only did Ikenberry want to see the players accomplish their baseball-specific goals on the field, but he also strove to help players succeed off the field.

"This is a special place to develop — not just with baseball, but to be successful leaders in life after baseball," Ikenberry said.

As the season came to a close, JMU baseball players tried to demonstrate the skills they had developed by following Ikenberry's four-pillar system. The new techniques Ikenberry introduced during his first season as head coach seemed to help the players develop their abilities and score six more wins than their previous season.

WORDS: Samantha Swingle

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Sarah Winn

2016 SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT			
			Apr. 3	Delaware	W 14-12
Feb. 19	Bucknell	W 9-3	Apr. 6	Maryland	L 5-2
Feb. 20	Bucknell	L 4-2	Apr. 8	Towson	L 6-4
Feb. 20	Bucknell	W 7-6	Apr. 10	Towson	L 3-2
Feb. 21	Bucknell	L 9-1	Apr. 10	Towson	L 8-4
Feb. 26	Clemson	L 6-1	Apr. 12	VMI	W 11-10
Feb. 27	Clemson	L 10-1	Apr. 15	W&M	W 8-5
Feb. 28	Clemson	L 11-2	Apr. 16	W&M	L 11-4
Mar. 1	GW	W 2-1	Apr. 17	W&M	L 2-0
Mar. 4	UMBC	W 12-7	Apr. 19	GMU	L 6-5
Mar. 5	UMBC	L 13-11	Apr. 22	Charleston	W 9-3
Mar. 6	UMBC	W 13-5	Apr. 23	Charleston	L 7-5
Mar. 8	VMI	W 12-8	Apr. 24	Charleston	W 3-1
Mar. 9	Davidson	W 7-6	Apr. 26	Maryland	L 19-12
Mar. 11	Gardner-Webb	L 8-2	Apr. 29	Elon	W 13-10
Mar. 12	Gardner-Webb	L 7-6	Apr. 30	Elon	L 9-2
Mar. 12	Gardner-Webb	L 5-4	May 1	Elon	L 12-4
Mar. 15	Monmouth	L 11-10	May 10	Richmond	L 17-5
Mar. 18	St. Bonaventure	W 7-5	May 13	UNCW	L 5-3
Mar. 18	St. Bonaventure	W 4-1	May 14	UNCW	W 8-6
Mar. 22	UVA	L 15-6	May 15	UNCW	W 11-7
Mar. 23	GMU	L 16-5	May 17	UMBC	L 14-0
Mar. 25	Northeastern	W 7-6	May 19	Hofstra	W 15-4
Mar. 26	Northeastern	W 6-4	May 20	Hofstra	W 9-1
Mar. 27	Northeastern	L 20-5	May 20	Hofstra	W 6-0
Mar. 29	Richmond	L 8-1	May 25	Northeastern	W 3-2
Apr. 1	Delaware	W 7-3	May 26	UNCW	L 5-4
Apr. 2	Delaware	L 16-6	May 26	Northeastern	L 19-9



HISTORY IN THE MAKING

JMU SOFTBALL CLIMBS TO THE TOP | CAA 18-1, OVERALL 50-6

On May 28, the Dukes faced off against the Louisiana State University Tigers in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Super Regionals. The JMU softball team hosted the game in their own Veterans Memorial Park, attracting a crowd of fans from both teams.

The Dukes ultimately lost the third game 3-2, just shy of a ticket to the Women's College World Series. Despite their loss, JMU Softball ended the 2016 season with only six losses out of a total of 56 games.

"The best part about playing softball is getting to come out here every day, playing the sport you love, while also playing with your 28 other teammates who are basically your sisters," senior sport and recreation management major Madyson Moran said.

Many team members felt that a major contributor to the team's success was their ability to work well together and help each other with important plays.

"If I'm up to bat, I always try to get on [base] so my teammate behind me can get me

in and score me," Moran said. "I'm always playing for my teammates and not myself."

Throughout their journey toward the Women's College World Series, the team seemed to hold one another close as they encountered challenge after challenge.

"You always have someone to go to or someone to talk to," Taylor Newton, a senior health sciences major and outfielder, said. "Everyone is your family; you're not just one individual in the group."

After the field's lights were turned off following their final game against LSU, the Dukes were able to leave the diamond knowing they had achieved a historic number of wins during the 2016 season, setting the bar high for the season to follow.

WORDS: Michelle Criqui and Alexis Kubica

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Sarah Winn

Right: JMU Softball cheers at a game during the 2016 season. The team had a historic season, during which they hosted a Super Regional game.

Below: Hannah Hayes, a 2016 graduate, leads off during a softball game. Hayes was an infielder for JMU Softball.





2016 SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Feb. 12	Fordham	W 1-0
Feb. 12	Rutgers	W 5-0
Feb. 13	Alabama	L 2-1
Feb. 13	UCF	W 1-0
Feb. 14	Rutgers	W 8-3
Feb. 19	Tennessee	W 9-0
Feb. 19	DePaul	W 8-1
Feb. 20	Fordham	W 11-4
Feb. 20	Auburn	W 3-2
Feb. 21	OK State	W 4-1
Feb. 27	Toledo	W 12-3
Feb. 28	St. Joseph's	W 2-1
Feb. 28	Robert Morris	W 8-0
Mar. 4	St. Francis	W 5-0
Mar. 4	Mt. St. Mary's	W 14-5
Mar. 5	BYU	W 10-6
Mar. 6	UTEP	W 3-0
Mar. 6	Arizona	W 4-2
Mar. 6	Arizona	W 6-1
Mar. 11	OH State	W 7-4
Mar. 11	Nebraska	L 8-4
Mar. 12	Nebraska	W 7-0
Mar. 12	Georgetown	W 2-1
Mar. 13	AZ State	W 2-1
Mar. 25	UNCW	W 2-0
Mar. 25	UNCW	W 2-1
Mar. 26	UNCW	W 1-0
Mar. 30	UVA	W 1-0
Mar. 30	UVA	W 2-0
Apr. 2	Towson	W 16-0
Apr. 2	Towson	W 11-6
Apr. 3	Towson	W 3-0
Apr. 6	VT	L 2-1
Apr. 6	VT	W 10-1
Apr. 9	Charleston	W 7-1
Apr. 9	Charleston	W 4-3
Apr. 10	Charleston	W 5-1
Apr. 16	Drexel	W 3-0
Apr. 16	Drexel	W 8-0
Apr. 17	Drexel	W 8-0
Apr. 23	Delaware	W 8-0
Apr. 23	Delaware	W 6-5
Apr. 24	Delaware	W 11-2
Apr. 30	Elon	L 5-4
Apr. 30	Elon	W 8-1
May 7	Hofstra	W 4-0
May 7	Hofstra	W 7-1
May 11	Delaware	W 2-0
May 12	Towson	W 14-2
May 13	Towson	W 8-0
May 20	Princeton	W 7-0
May 21	UNC	W 10-1
May 22	Longwood	W 5-1
May 27	LSU	W 3-2
May 28	LSU	L 2-0
May 28	LSU	L 3-2

MEN'S TENNIS

THE DUKES SWING INTO ACTION

Forehand, backhand, serve and return — tennis had multiple moves and potential outcomes for each match. In preparation for its spring season, the men's tennis team attended several invitationals in the fall of 2016.

Tennis was composed of either a singles or doubles match and required mental and physical stamina. Depending on the day, matches could be made up of numerous sets and could last hours. The athletes began preparing for the match by volleying back and forth with one another to get a feel for how their racquet was handling that day.

Later came a warm-up match with a partner, the goal of which was to prepare both athletes for matches with their opponents. This procedure was then repeated with the opponent prior to beginning a match.

Many tennis players began their careers young, playing at tennis camps and on club teams prior to competing in high school or at the collegiate level. It could take years for tennis players to perfect their serve.

Many players enjoyed tennis because they thrived off the competition of battling it out with a single opponent throughout a match.

"Being able to stay mentally strong in times of doubt throughout a tennis match is the most important thing in tennis for me," freshman history major Tate Steinour said.

On April 22, the team traveled to the College of Charleston in South Carolina for the Colonial Athletic Association quarterfinals, where they ultimately lost 4-1. Still, the Dukes were able to strengthen their skills and earn nine wins throughout the season.

WORDS: Nakayla Irvin

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



2016 SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Mar. 2	Howard	W 4-3
Mar. 3	Bridgewater	W 6-0
Mar. 10	The Citadel	W 6-1
Mar. 12	Coastal Carolina	L 4-0
Mar. 13	College of Charleston	L 7-0
Mar. 15	Longwood	W 4-3
Mar. 18	Elon	L 7-0
Mar. 23	Richmond	L 7-0
Mar. 26	Bucknell	W 4-3
Apr. 3	Davidson	L 4-2
Apr. 6	Radford	W 4-2
Apr. 16	Drexel	L 5-2
Apr. 17	William & Mary	L 5-2
Apr. 22	College of Charleston	L 4-1



Above: Senior Miljan Ruzic displays concentration while facing an opponent.
Left: Senior Sebastian Salinas Walther sets up to hit the ball back over the net.

SERVING UP SUCCESS

WOMEN'S TENNIS ADVANCES TO THE CAA FINALS

Unlike most JMU sports, the women's tennis team was led by a married couple. Coach James Bryce and his wife, Assistant Coach Erin Bryce, led the team to its most successful season yet in the spring of 2016, when the players advanced to the Colonial Athletic Association Finals against the College of William and Mary.

"Everybody came together, and we kind of had one goal in mind, and we all fought our butts off," senior marketing major Rebecca Harris said. "We went out there [for] every single match wanting to win as a team and for each other."

Although the outcome of the CAA final match was not a victory for the Dukes, the coaches and players seemed ready to redeem themselves and "have a truly once-in-a-lifetime" 2016-2017 season, according to Harris.

With all returning players, the fire to dominate seemed to culminate on the JMU courts during practices. According to Harris, having an open mind during matches was a key strategy she used to achieve success.

In addition, Bryce believed that success would not only come from what they learned on the court, but also from the values the coaches instilled in the players throughout the season.

"I think if we can get our players to graduate and get them to respect one another ... the results will pay off in the long run," Bryce said.

Regarding future seasons, Bryce seemed optimistic for improvement.

"JMU is a special place to coach at ... [I] think the sky can be the limit for this program," Bryce said.

Harris described Bryce as a "determined" coach.

"[He] wants 100 percent effort, [and] knows what you're capable of and ... wants you to perform to the best of your abilities," Harris said.

The relationships that were formed on the team were something Bryce found most rewarding as a coach.

"When they work so hard for something and have that gratification, that smile on their face from success ... that they have achieved something as a team ... I think it means I've done my job," Bryce said.

Following a season of high achievement, JMU Women's Tennis kept its sights on the 2017 CAA tournament.

2016 SCOREBOARD

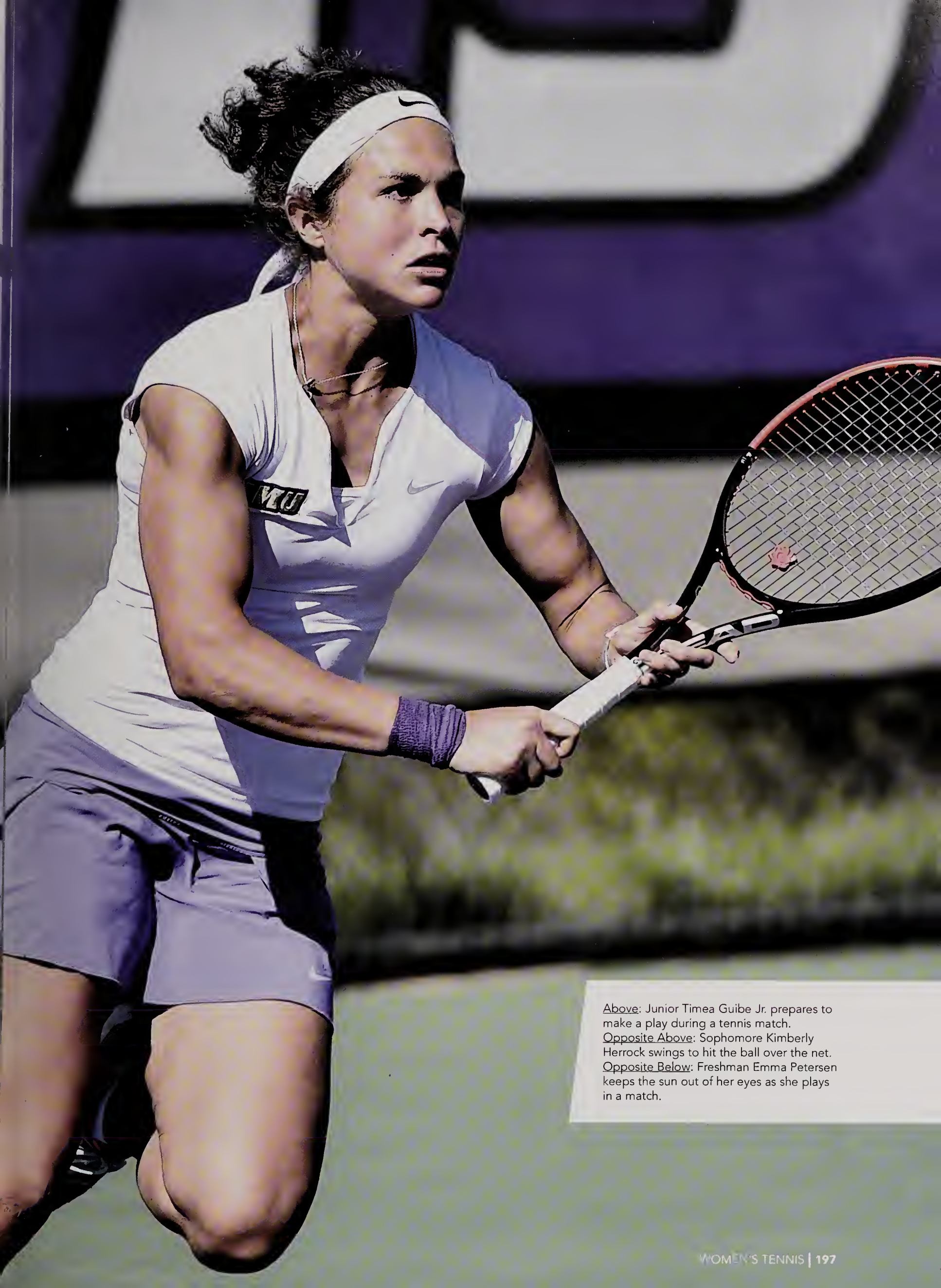
DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Mar. 9	Charlotte	W 4-0
Mar. 10	South Dakota State	W 4-3
Mar. 11	Ball State	L 4-3
Mar. 19	Charleston	W 4-3
Mar. 20	UNCW	W 4-1
Mar. 25	Radford	W 7-0
Mar. 26	George Washington	W 5-2
Mar. 29	Delaware	W 6-1
Apr. 2	Elon	L 4-3
Apr. 3	Davidson	W 4-0
Apr. 11	Richmond	W 4-1
Apr. 16	Drexel	W 5-2
Apr. 17	VCU	L 4-3
Apr. 22	Towson	W 4-1
Apr. 23	Elon	W 4-1
Apr. 24	William & Mary	L 4-1

WORDS: Chelsea Church

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Sarah Winn





Above: Junior Timea Guibe Jr. prepares to make a play during a tennis match.
Opposite Above: Sophomore Kimberly Herrock swings to hit the ball over the net.
Opposite Below: Freshman Emma Petersen keeps the sun out of her eyes as she plays in a match.



MENS GOLF

PLAYERS IMPROVE INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM SCORES

The JMU men's golf team closed out the first half of its 2016-2017 season with a win at the Camden Collegiate Classic on Oct. 22 and 23, 2016, in Camden, SC. The Dukes placed first out of 14 teams. Ryan Cole, a senior finance major, helped lead the Dukes to victory by earning an individual first place on a 75-player field.

"It was a big win to cap off the fall season," Cole said. "It's always good to get the individual and team title at once. It was a difficult course, especially beating a South Carolina team, who were really solid at their home track. That was really big for us."

Throughout the first half of the season, the Dukes placed within the top six of every tournament in which they competed. The team would travel across the country to a variety of competitions, which junior finance major Jack Floyddd regarded as one of his favorite aspects of playing collegiate golf.

"I had never been to Arizona before my freshman year," Floyddd, an international student from West Sussex, England, said. "It felt like a desert. It was very hot out there, and very humid. It was a different type of experience for me."

The team practiced throughout the week at on-and-off-campus facilities, including Packsaddle Ridge Golf Course and Spotswood Country Club, which the women's golf team also utilized. Although the separate teams did not practice together, they played in a mock tournament on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to demonstrate their skills and learn from one another.

"We all got out and teed off at about 10 o'clock," Floyddd said. "It was good fun."

As the second half of the season began, Cole looked forward to finishing his collegiate golf career on a high note before going on to play professionally.

"I know it's difficult to get there and it's not a quick process," Cole said. "But I'm

willing to put in the work and do everything I need to do to prepare ... and hopefully one day make it there."

The Dukes strove not only to excel individually, but work together to strengthen their skills as a team.

"We're looking to win a conference title, first of all," Cole said. "Past that, we want to make it to the [National Collegiate Athletic Association] regionals, finish top five there and make it to the national championship. That's our goal; that's what we believe we can do. That's what we're working for every day."

After a successful first half of the season, the team secured a win by 13 holes against Liberty University on Jan. 29, and endeavored toward a lucrative conclusion to their 2016-2017 season.

WORDS: Michelle Criqui

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Madison Ebbert



Opposite: An international student from West Sussex, England, junior Jack Floyd swings his club and watches the ball take flight.

Above: Senior Ryan Cole drives the ball down the fairway.

Below: Senior Connor Walters attempts to hit the ball out of the sand trap.

WOMEN'S GOLF

COOL SUB HEADER

The JMU women's golf team wound down its 2015-2016 season with a win at the Morehead State University Spring Citrus Challenge Invitational in Jacksonville, Florida, from March 20 to 22. The Dukes tied for first with Western Kentucky University and Elon University, against 20 teams total.

Leading the way for the team was junior international business major Laura Gomecz-Ruiz, who placed fifth individually. Gomecz-Ruiz earned the title of Colonial Athletic Association Golfer of the Week shortly prior, for the week of March 10, 2016. The season ended with the Dukes earning sixth place at the CAA Championships in Southport, North Carolina.

In the fall, the Dukes hit the course for the start of their 2016-2017 season at the Golfweek Program Challenge in Pawley's Island, S.C. on the weekend of Sept. 11. Out of 16 teams from across the nation, JMU placed sixth in the tournament, with junior sport and recreation management major Maddisen Cox placing fourth individually.

Gabrielle Weiss, a junior sport and recreation management major, was the oldest player on the eight-person team, and believed that the Dukes had plenty of opportunities for success in the future.

"We have a very young team," Weiss said. "There's a lot of potential. I came in as a freshman and everyone on the team was so old. Now, everybody's gone, and it's just so strange for me."

The team practiced 20 hours per week at several locations close to campus, including Lakeview Golf Club, Spotswood

Country Club, Mulligan's Golf Center and an indoor facility in Godwin Hall. Many players, however, chose to take on additional practice hours to improve their skills.

"It's a big time commitment, but definitely worth it," Weiss said.

Lauren Comegys, a freshman hospitality management major, was one of the team's younger players who benefited from the advice and guidance of experienced members of the team. Coming into the world of competitive collegiate golf, Comegys most enjoyed the variety of golfers she would meet at tournaments.

"I played with a girl from Iceland, and a girl from Finland," Comegys said. "You meet people from everywhere. I think it's really cool hearing their stories."

For Weiss, being a member of JMU Women's Golf allowed her to enjoy the team aspect of a competitive sport.

"Golf is funny, because in college [the focus] is the team, but you're also focusing on your individual part at the same time. Whereas, in junior golf, it's just you. Now, you feel like your score is a part of something, and that's probably the most satisfying part of it."

As the women's golf team swung into its spring 2017 season, the Dukes aimed to benefit from the potential of a young team, gaining experience at every tournament and finishing the year strong.

WORDS: Michelle Criqui

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Kenneth Basic



INCORRECT SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
1/30	Maryland	L 5-2
1/31	Towson	W 6-1
2/4	Old Dominion	L 4-0
2/6	Howard	W 7-0
2/7	Navy	W 7-0
2/20	Morehead State	W 6-1
2/21	West Virginia	L 6-1
2/27	Norfolk State	W 6-1
2/27	Hampton	W 7-0
3/9	Charlotte	W 4-0

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TEN YARD FIGHT

JMU FOOTBALL HAS A RECORD-BREAKING SEASON

2016 SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Sept. 3	Morehead St.	W 80-7
Sept. 10	Central Conn. St.	W 56-21
Sept. 17	North Carolina	L 56-28
Sept. 24	Maine	W 31-20
Oct. 1	Delaware	W 43-20
Oct. 8	William & Mary	W 31-24
Oct. 15	New Hampshire	W 42-39
Oct. 29	Rhode Island	W 84-7
Nov. 5	Richmond	W 47-43
Nov. 12	Villanova	W 20-7
Nov. 19	Elon	W 63-14
Dec. 3	New Hampshire	W 55-22
Dec. 9	Sam Houston St.	W 65-7
Dec. 16	North Dakota St.	W 27-17
Jan. 7	Youngstown St.	W 28-14

In the first season for new head coach Michael Houston and other new coaching staff, JMU Football was successful in nearly every game. Winning two games by a margin of over 70 points, the Dukes seemed to have had little problem scoring throughout the season.

After numerous months of preparation, the Dukes were able to overcome the University of Richmond 47-43 on Nov. 5, redeeming themselves after a loss against the Spiders during the 2015 season. The team earned the honor of being the only undefeated team against others in the Football Championship Subdivision by the end of the 2016 season.

"So far this season, my favorite game would have to be the Homecoming game," Daniel Schiele, a tight end and senior health sciences major, said. "Scoring three touchdowns was an unbelievable experience."

Along with their wins, the players created memorable moments and persevered team traditions. A new team tradition was traveling 40 miles north to Woodstock, Virginia, to stay in a hotel the night before home football games.

"Staying with the team in a hotel on Friday nights before home games is really

beneficial to us," Schiele said. "It gives us a chance to get away from the nightlife at JMU, so we have no distractions before our game. It also gives us a chance to bond as a team."

In addition to making memories and participating in team traditions, JMU Football also had a new coaching staff. The 2016 season was the first for Houston, who seemed to be able to find success right away.

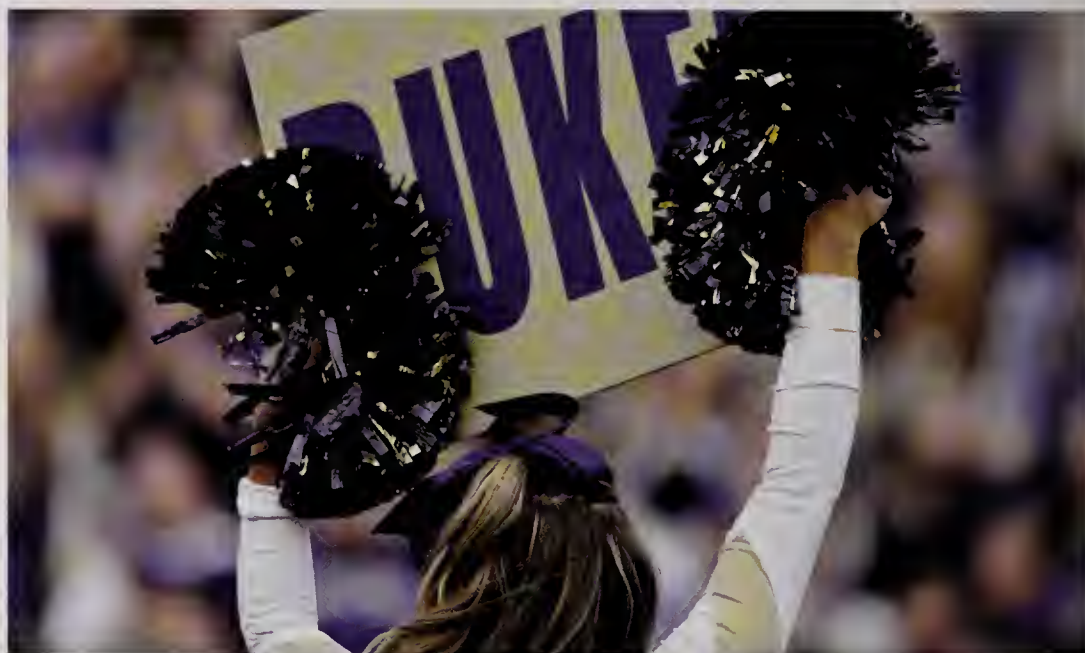
"Coach Houston is a great coach," Jonathan Kloosterman, a tight end and a junior majoring in kinesiology and health sciences, said. "He really cares about us as players and wants us to be the best players we can be, but also the best men we can be after football."

Houston used his previous coaching experience to lead the Dukes to victory during the 2017 FCS National Championship on Jan. 7, 2017 in Frisco, Texas. The team overcame the No. 13 ranked Youngstown State in a 28-14 victory.

WORDS: Nakayla Irvin

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications and Courtesy of Cory Stinnett

DESIGN: Alexandra Orndahl



A JMU cheerleader holds a sign during the Oct. 8 game against the College of William and Mary. Members of the cheer team were known to excite the fans in the crowd.



Red-shirt junior Jordan Brown holds a JMU flag after the 28-14 victory over the Youngstown State Penguins. JMU played Youngstown St. in the 2017 Football Championship Series National Championship in Frisco, Texas.



NATIONAL CHAMPS

DUKES BRING HOME A WIN IN FRISCO, TEXAS

The Dukes' victories began early in the 2016 season, with the team's only loss being to the Tar Heels of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. After going undefeated in Colonial Athletic Association play, the men of JMU Football entered into the playoff rounds.

After winning the second-round and quarterfinal home games, the team headed to Fargo, North Dakota, to take on No. 1-ranked North Dakota State University. The Bison had won the five previous national championships, and were, according to ESPN, the favorite to win in the matchup against the Dukes.

Toward the end of the game, quarterback Bryan Sehor, a junior majoring in finance and political science, threw a 25-yard pass to wide receiver and junior management major John Miller, securing a touchdown and finalizing the winning score at 27-17.

On Jan. 7, 2017, the Dukes met the Youngstown State University Penguins in Frisco, Texas, for the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision National

Championship. Fans on both sides came out to support their schools and cheer on their teams. Even though the temperature was below freezing, JMU fans packed into the stadium in what commentators called "a sea of purple."

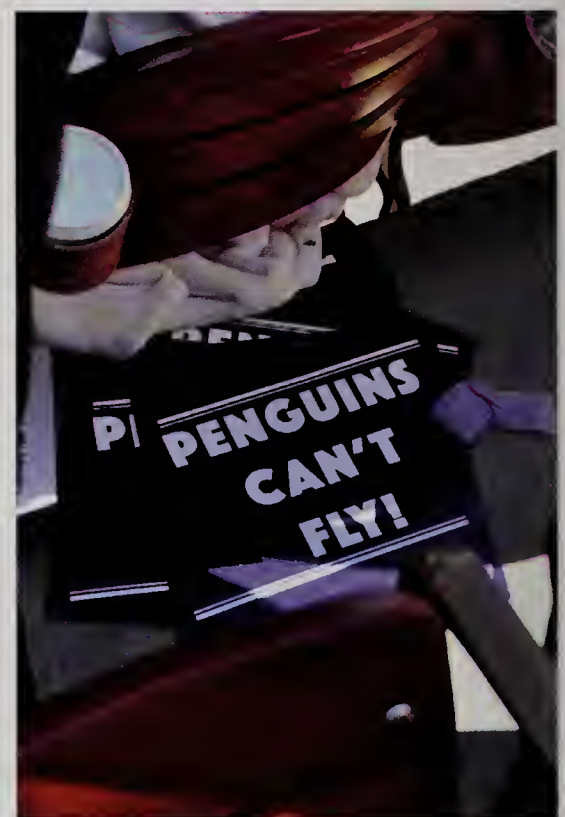
After 60 minutes of play, the Dukes were able to hold off the Penguins in a 28-14 victory, making JMU Football national champions for the first time since 2004. The trophy accompanied the team home that night, where the team was met by a sea of fans at Bridgeforth Stadium.

By the end of the season, the Dukes had averaged 46 points per game — more than double the average of their competitors. Under the leadership of new head coach Michael Houston and aided by the experience of returning players, the Dukes were able to bring the championship ring home to the valley.

WORDS: Hannah Adams

PHOTO: DePaul Straub and Courtesy of Corey Stinnett and David Gould

DESIGN: Kathryn Magnier





Above: A photo taken by freshman DePaul Straub shows the championship banner displayed in downtown Harrisonburg. JMU, in conjunction with the community of Harrisonburg, threw a parade welcoming the Dukes back.

Opposite Left: A photo taken by Corey Stinnett shows a sign that reads "Penguins Can't Fly!" The slogan became a popular chant for some JMU fans throughout the game.

Left: A photo taken by David Gould depicts the scene at Scruffy Duffies in Plano, Texas. The bar hosted the official party for the JMU Alumni Association the night before the game.

DUKETTES

DANCE TEAM INVITES COMMUNITY YOUTHS TO SHARE THE FIELD

Although the Dukettes were accustomed to the spotlight at home football and basketball games, during one athletic event in particular, all eyes were not on them.

Instead, members shared the spotlight with local children and adolescents, who joined them in a halftime dance routine during the JMU Women's Basketball game against Towson University on Feb. 21, 2016.

"It is basically a day where we get to have fun and enjoy time with inspiring young dancers and our community," Abigail Pierro, a senior majoring in accounting and psychology, said.

"Dukette for a Day" was an annual clinic open to beginner, intermediate and advanced dancers aged 4 to 18. Participants met the Dukettes at the Harrisonburg High School gymnasium and bonded with them before learning choreography for the halftime routine.

"They come earlier that morning and we play fun games to get to know them, and for them to get to know us," Pierro, team co-captain, said.

After introductions, icebreaker activities and warm-ups, participants were split into groups based on age and skill level. Then, the Dukettes taught them dance moves to prepare for the upcoming performance in front of spectators in the Convocation Center stands, which included the participants' families.

Following practices and water breaks, the young dancers were treated to hair and makeup prep, as well as matching outfits.

"The kids' parents come and watch them for a mini dress rehearsal, and then we head over to Convo to cheer on the Dukes," Pierro said.

According to Pierro, witnessing participants' faces light up while they danced

in front of the audience was one of the most rewarding aspects of the day-long program.

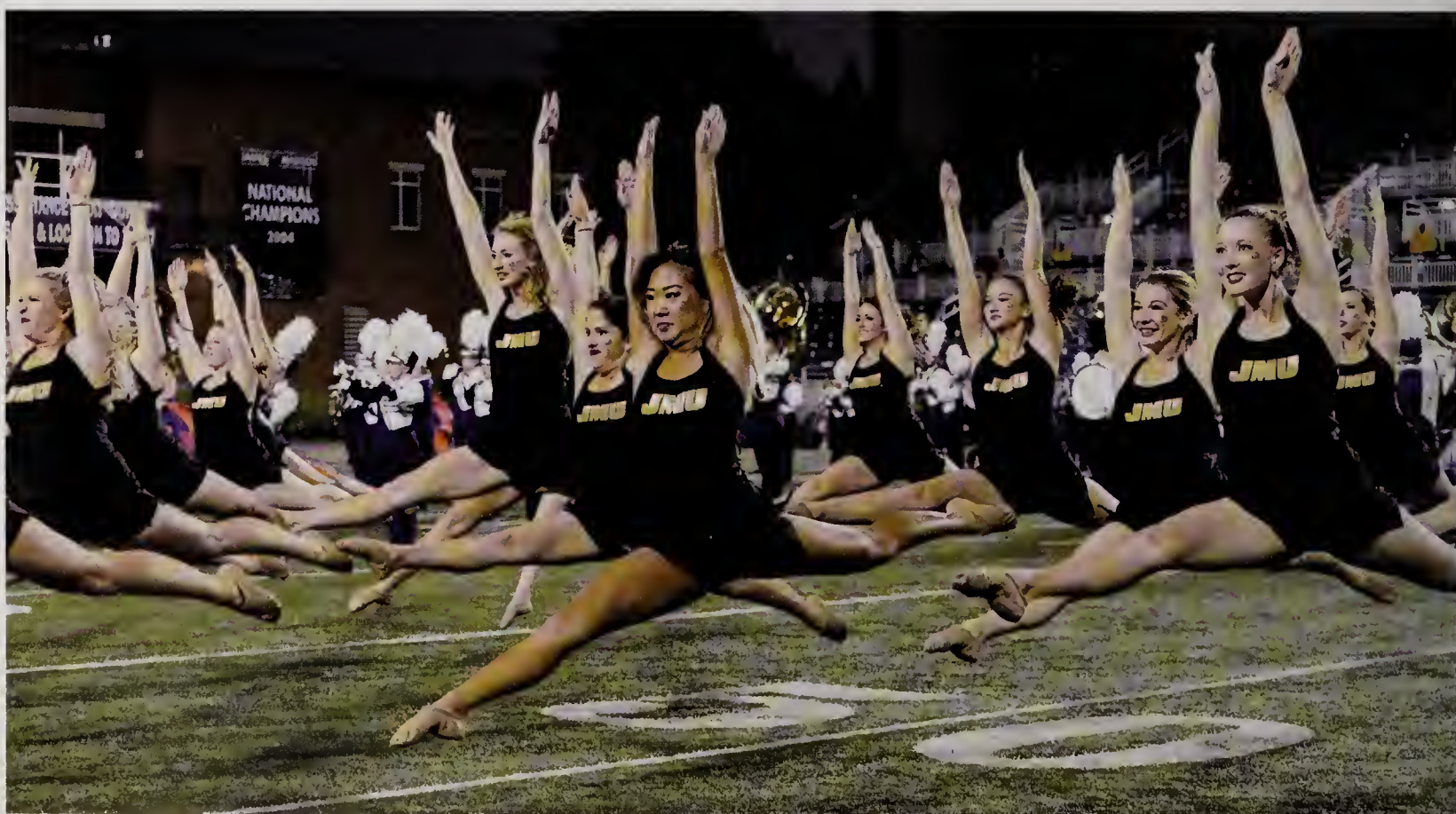
In addition to this, the Dukettes also participated in the National Dance Alliance's Collegiate Dance Team camp, as well as the Marching Royal Dukes band camp, both of which were held in the summer of 2016.


However, "Dukette for a Day" seemed to be the more memorable event for the Dukettes, in that they were able to spend time with younger dancers and give back to the Harrisonburg community.

WORDS: Jillian Wright

PHOTO: Anne Franks

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic





The National Champion Dukettes perform their routine at Bridgeforth Stadium. The Dukettes performed at every home football game.

BRINGING THE SPIRIT

CHEERLEADERS ENERGIZE FANS DURING HOME GAMES

From spending Saturdays

cheering on the football team to hours of practice working on their competition routines, the JMU cheerleaders strove to spread school-wide spirit. Over the summer, the Co-ed Squad earned a spot at the National Cheerleading Association National Championship in Daytona, FL.

In the fall of 2016, two stunt teams from the All-girl Squad earned their way to finals in the stunting competition. The sport required extensive training to ensure members hit their stunts accurately. Many of these athletes started their cheer careers years before coming to JMU.

"I started to cheer when I was 5," Julia Garrison, a freshman biology major, said. "My mom is the director of our Pop Warner [Recreational] Cheerleading Program back home, and my dad is the president of the Pop Warner Football, so the second [my sister and I] were eligible, they signed us up and I instantly fell in love."

According to senior psychology major Coral Kochis, one of the biggest thrills of being a cheerleader at JMU was cheering at every home football game.

"[I love] the feeling of looking up and seeing thousands of people wearing purple, and feeling the absolute pride of going to this school," Kochis said.

Many members of JMU Cheerleading also enjoyed competing as a team throughout the year.

"I like competing more [than cheering at games] because it's fun to go against different schools [and] teams with a routine that fits your team specifically, and seeing how you compare to them," Abigail Bour, a freshman nursing major, said. "Winning is also a huge plus, and the feeling of hitting a perfect routine in front of hundreds of people in a cheering crowd is unlike anything else."

The sport was composed of multiple aspects, including spirit, tumbling and stunting. Cheerleading also provided members with an environment in which to set individual and team goals.

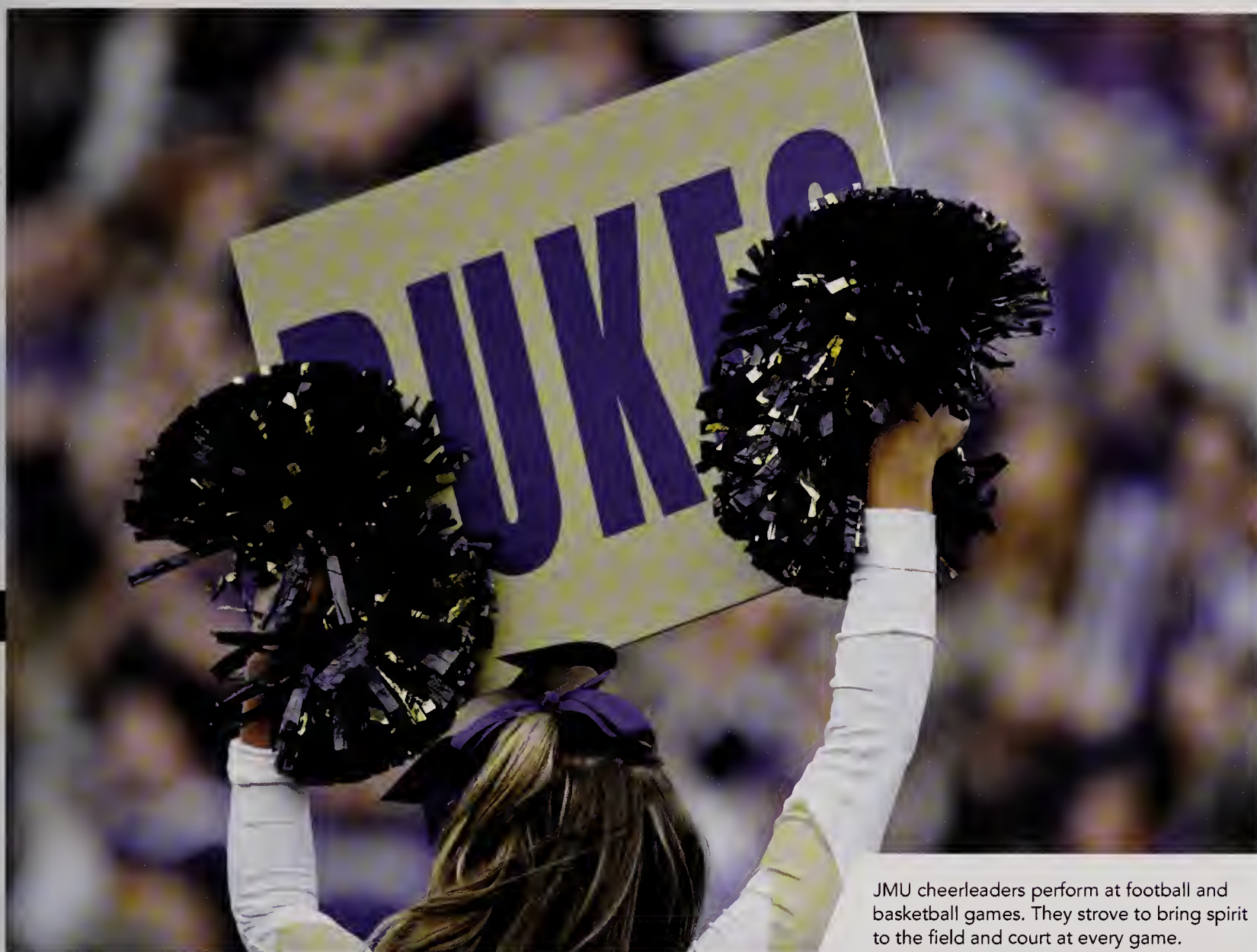
"This season, I wish to accomplish placing [in the] top five at our stunt competition at [Walt] Disney World in January," Madison Hertel, a freshman biology major, said. "My stunt group is well-connected and fully capable of making top five; we just have to hit."

Cheerleading seemed to be focused on coming together to work toward the common goal of winning a competition or cheering on the football and basketball teams.

WORDS: Nakayla Irvin

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Madison Ebbert



JMU cheerleaders perform at football and basketball games. They strove to bring spirit to the field and court at every game.



SWIMMING AND DIVING

DUKES PLUNGE INTO A FAST-PACED SPORT

2016-2017 SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Oct. 15	Liberty	W 168.5-125.5
Oct. 22	Northeastern	W 163.0-136.0
Oct. 22	New Hampshire	W 203.0-97.0
Nov. 5	William & Mary	W 163.0-106.0
Nov. 5	East Carolina	W 172.5-107.5
Nov. 6	UNCW	W 141.0-97.0
Jan. 14	Richmond	W 182.0-118.0
Jan. 21	Marshall	L 190.5-179.5
Jan. 21	VMI	W 157.0-12.0

WORDS: Nakayla Irvin

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Marissa Scholler

Many believed swimming and diving were sports of technique, endurance and practice. Several members of JMU Swimming and Diving started the sport at a young age, giving them years to improve their skills and build up endurance for their events.

"The JMU swim and dive team is a very special group," freshman biology major MacKenzie Gring said. "The girls on this team are so talented and have so much potential to be great, both in and out of the pool. When we all band together [to push] toward a goal, there is something so powerful about it, and I truly believe we can be unstoppable."

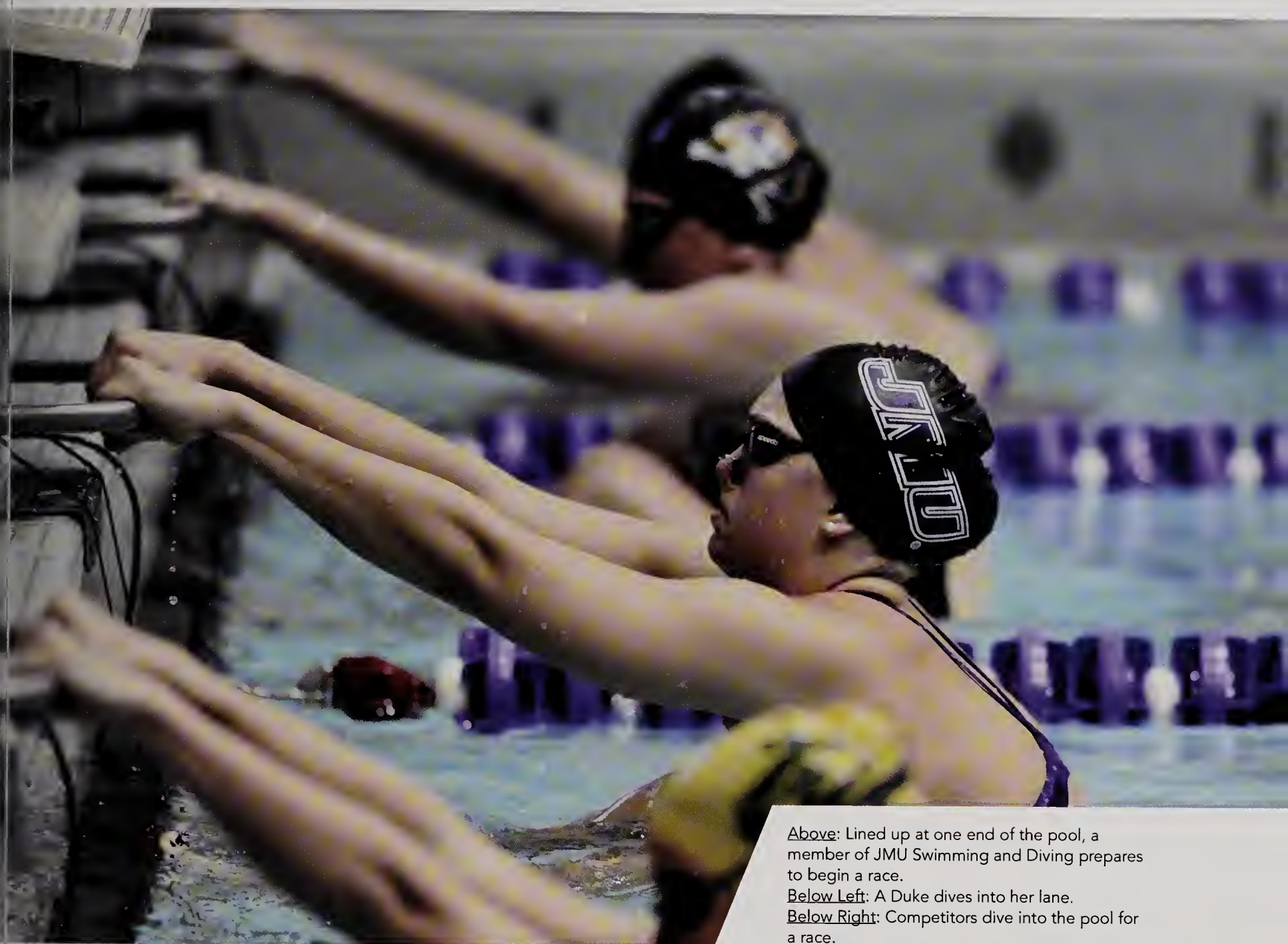
Swimming was a sport of not only fast, high-energy races, but also of endurance-based races. Diving was a sport of technique and practice. Every athlete seemed to have a favorite event when it came to meets and competitions.

"My favorite dive is back flip with one and a half twists that you dive in. It's called back one and a half with one and a half twists," freshman health science major Carlyn McNeely said.

Diving was also a mental sport that required preparation and focus to be executed properly.

"My favorite dive is a reverse 2.5, but ironically, that is also the dive that gives me the most anxiety," senior health sciences major Olivia Lehman said. "I like it because I can jump really high, and then I flip fast 2.5 times before I kick out and reach back for the water. It's fun just because I just like being high and flipping and all of that. But it gives me anxiety because I need to get the perfect approach in order to make the dive great, so that's what's always running through my mind before I do it."

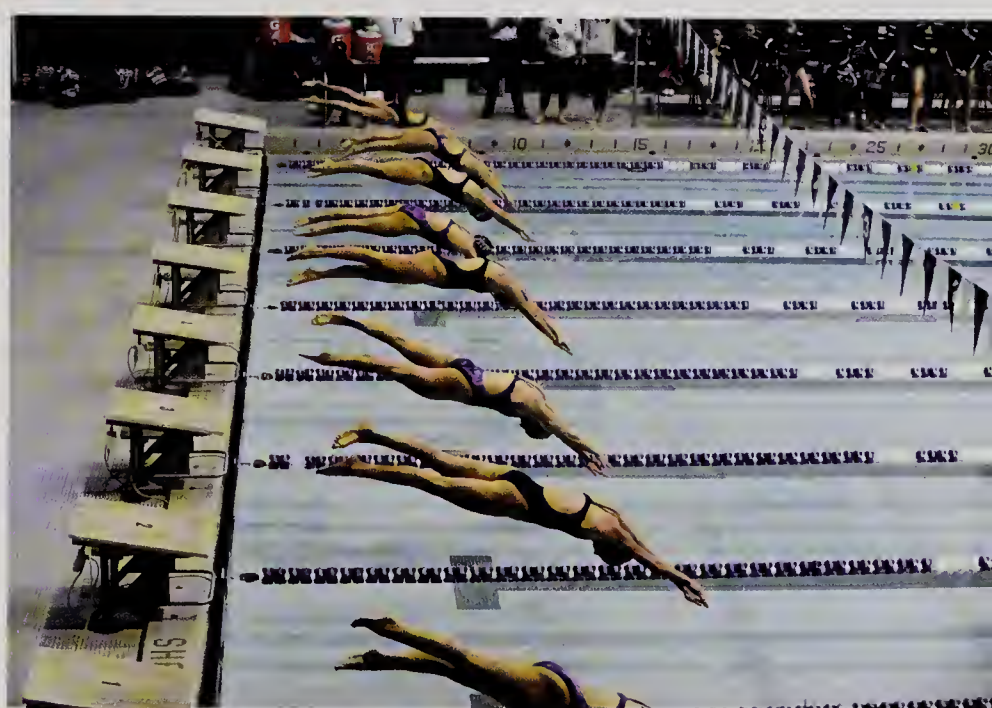
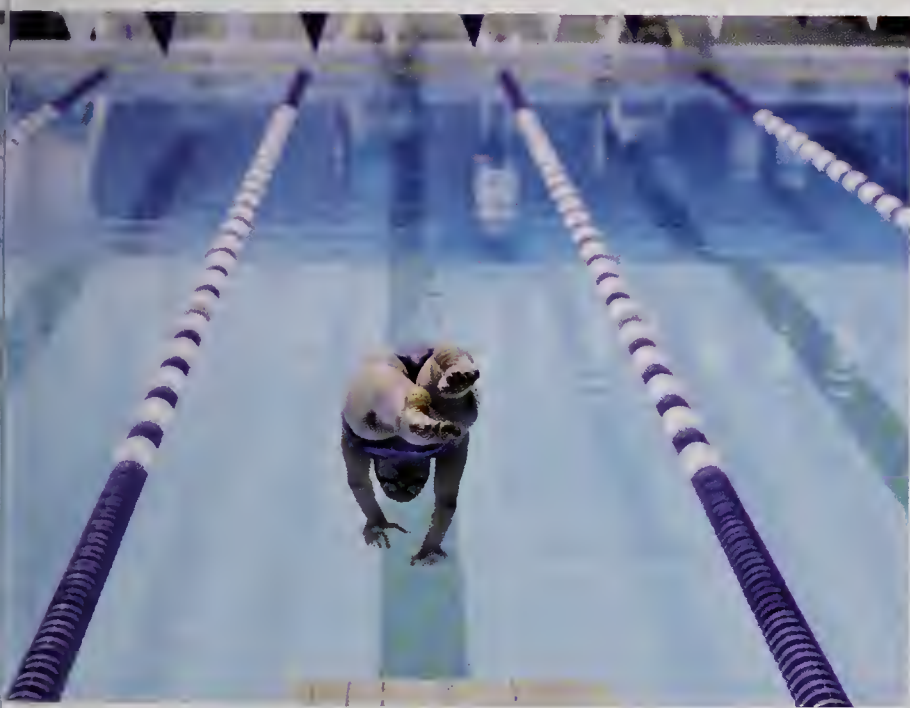
As the team found its rhythm during the season, members also perfected their technique and endurance to perform to their best ability. They practiced their favorite strokes and dives to be able to be on top at each meet and in each individual event.



Above: Lined up at one end of the pool, a member of JMU Swimming and Diving prepares to begin a race.

Below Left: A Duke dives into her lane.

Below Right: Competitors dive into the pool for a race.





DIG THE DUKES

VOLLEYBALL EARNS FIRST CAA TITLE SINCE 2000

In the last 10 games of the season leading up to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships, JMU Women's Volleyball earned nothing but wins. At the CAA Volleyball Championship in Wilmington, NC from Nov. 19-20, the Dukes defeated Towson University and the University of Delaware, both 3-0.

Chelsea Robinson, a junior kinesiology major, served as the team's manager during the 2016-2017 season, and traveled with the Dukes to each of their competitions.

"I get to be a part of everything they accomplish," Robinson said. "Sometimes it can be hard, but the girls make it fun for me, and so do the coaches. They treat me like a teammate."

Robinson explained that the team adhered to a specific set of values, which strove to help them become better team players and individuals. This began with the team's emphasis on "no blaming, complaining or defending."

The Dukes went up against Coastal Carolina University for the NCAA Championship in Chapel Hill, NC on Dec. 2. Although they ultimately lost 3-2, the team achieved its first NCAA tournament set win in JMU history.

WORDS: Andrianna Boykin and Michelle Criqui

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Sarah Winn



Above: Junior Taylor Gail taps the ball over the net.
Below Left: Junior Bryn Recker bumps the ball.
Below Right: Senior Taylor Austin jumps in celebration following a play.



2016 SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Aug. 26	NC Central	W 3-0
Aug. 26	Georgia State	W 3-1
Aug. 27	Holy Cross	W 3-0
Aug. 27	Washington	L 3-0
Sept. 2	Marist	W 3-1
Sept. 3	Cornell	W 3-0
Sept. 3	Colgate	W 3-0
Sept. 9	Villanova	L 3-0
Sept. 9	Fairfield	L 3-1
Sept. 10	Sacred Heart	W 3-1
Sept. 16	Northern Illinois	L 3-0
Sept. 16	George Washington	W 3-1
Sept. 17	Tennessee	L 3-0
Sept. 21	William & Mary	W 3-0
Sept. 23	Elon	W 3-1
Sept. 30	Hofstra	L 3-0
Oct. 2	Northeastern	L 3-1
Oct. 7	UNCW	W 3-1
Oct. 9	Charleston	L 3-1
Oct. 14	Towson	L 3-0
Oct. 16	Delaware	L 3-2
Oct. 20	Northeastern	W 3-1
Oct. 22	Elon	W 3-1
Oct. 23	Hofstra	W 3-1
Oct. 28	William & Mary	W 3-1
Nov. 3	Charleston	W 3-2
Nov. 5	UNCW	W 3-2
Nov. 11	Delaware	W 3-1
Nov. 12	Towson	W 3-2
Nov. 19	Towson	W 3-0
Nov. 20	Delaware	W 3-0
Dec. 2	Coastal Carolina	L 3-2



MEN'S BASKETBALL

DUKES OVERCOME OBSTACLES ON THE COURT

Unlike most JMU varsity sports, the men's basketball team faced the first half of its 2016-2017 season with less victories than losses. However, with each game came learning experiences.

"Unfortunately, this season we did not have luck with injuries; thus, each player had to step up with their games and help the team win," senior finance major Ivan Lukic said.

According to Lukic, a forward on the team, multiple players experienced injuries, and therefore the Dukes had to adjust during practices and games. Yet the athletes had trained to prepare for unanticipated challenges and tough battles on the court.

"Earlier in the preseason, our coaches have done a great job exposing us to different physical and mental challenges with a goal of preparing us for a long and tiring season," Lukic said.

Having to adapt to injuries, as well as a new head coach, Louis Rowe, the team seemed to face each opponent with an optimistic attitude and the desire to win. For Lukic, the most memorable competition of the season was the first Colonial Athletic Association game at home versus Drexel University. The Dukes rose to victory, 78-67, against the visiting team on Dec. 31, 2016.

"Not only did we play exceptionally well against a very tough opponent, but that win versus Drexel led us to a three-game winning streak," Lukic said.

Yet for Tyriq Nady, a freshman sport and recreation management major, the 64-44 win against Towson University on Jan. 2, 2017 was a home game he wouldn't soon forget.

"We won by 20 and played so well as a collective," Nady, a guard on the team, said. "It was awesome."

Additionally, away games brought the Dukes to places across the country that they had never visited before, including Montana State University.

"This season, the team had a chance to play a game in Montana, which was a very insightful experience considering that no person on our team has ever been there," Lukic said.

"Montana is a beautiful state surrounded by mountains covered in snow. Also, when we went to Boston to play Northeastern University, coaches took us to an NBA game, which was another unforgettable experience."

Although the athletes struggled to overcome various challenges throughout the

2016-2017 season, they worked together to better tackle such obstacles and make progress.

"This year, we've had a lot of setbacks but ... if any obstacle is thrown at us, then we will overcome it together as a collective," Nady said. "Players face many challenges ... we all bring pieces to the table to solve the puzzle."

On Feb. 25, the Dukes traveled to Philadelphia to take on Drexel University once more, defeating the Dragons 70-64. This win seemed to urge the team on toward a more victorious end to its season, as the Dukes prepared to go up against Drexel yet again in the CAA Championship on Mar. 3.

WORDS: Jillian Wright

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Abigail Mumma

2016-2017 Scoreboard

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
Nov. 11	Old Dominion	L 62-55
Nov. 13	Rice	L 94-70
Nov. 18	Montana State	L 80-73
Nov. 21	Texas Southern	L 67-56
Nov. 23	Louisiana	L 82-70
Nov. 26	George Mason	L 80-77
Nov. 30	Charlotte	L 65-56
Dec. 3	Longwood	W 71-59
Dec. 10	Western Michigan	L 74-67
Dec. 17	Appalachian State	L 73-61
Dec. 20	Richmond	L 75-55
Dec. 23	UMBC	L 62-61
Dec. 28	Eastern Mennonite	W 82-65
Dec. 31	Drexel	W 78-67
Jan. 2	Towson	W 64-44
Jan. 5	Hofstra	W 62-54
Jan. 7	Northeastern	L 64-54
Jan. 12	College of Charleston	L 53-51
Jan. 14	Elon	W 60-59
Jan. 19	William and Mary	L 73-72
Jan. 21	College of Charleston	L 73-60
Jan. 26	UNCW	L 87-76
Jan. 28	Delaware	L 66-61
Feb. 2	Elon	L 67-61
Feb. 4	Northeastern	W 73-69
Feb. 9	UNCW	L 88-73
Feb. 11	Delaware	L 58-57
Feb. 16	William and Mary	W 95-92
Feb. 18	Towson	L 75-65
Feb. 23	Drexel	W 70-64
Feb. 25	Hofstra	L 71-66

Right: Senior Yohanny Dalember jumps for the ball during a game with Texas Southern on Nov. 21.



BALLIN' OUT

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HAS WINNING SEASON

Despite having to adjust to a new coaching staff, the JMU women's basketball team experienced another successful season during 2016-2017, earning 20 victories as of Feb. 22, 2017.

"The team works very well together," Da'Lishia Griffin, a senior justice studies major, said. "[We have] very good chemistry on and off the floor."

Although the team was down two players during 2016 — one due to a suspension, and another to an injury that left the athlete out for the remainder of the season — the team persisted with the guidance of new mentors.

"I and the rest of the team can say we are beyond happy that Coach [Sean O'Regan] and the assistants are the foundation of the program," Logan Reynolds, a sophomore who had yet to declare a major, said.

Of the team's victories, 13 were Colonial Athletic Association games. According to Reynolds, who played a guard position, one of

the most memorable competitions was against Elon University, both at home and away.

"It is an exciting, vicious rivalry that we have with them," Reynolds said. "The overarching vibe whenever we play them is intensified, which makes it the most memorable."

On JMU's basketball court, the team overcame the Elon Phoenixes 76-70 on Jan. 20, 2017. On Elon's North Carolina turf, the Dukes defeated the Phoenixes again on Feb. 12, 2017, this time with a score of 61-54.

Yet for Griffin, a former forward, the away game against Rutgers University on Dec. 5, 2016 was also memorable. The team won against the Scarlet Knights in double overtime, 82-76.

"We had two overtimes, and it was the last game I played," Griffin said.

Although the Dukes experienced a successful season, the team encountered obstacles that affected each member, such as having two players leave approximately

halfway through the season. According to Reynolds, however, the athletes were able to overcome these setbacks.

"[We have] a demeanor of always sticking together, regardless of hardships or adversity. There's always challenges that the team faces, whether it's injuries, juggling school and practice or the traditional opponent that sits in the way of getting a win," Reynolds said. "However, those challenges make the glue — togetherness — that this team is based on."

As Women's Basketball prepared for the CAA Championships in March, team members strove to persevere through any hurdles that stood in their way.

WORDS: Jillian Wright

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Alaina Agatone





2016-2017 Scoreboard

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
Nov. 11	Tennessee	L 81-69
Nov. 13	St. Francis Brooklyn	W 83-57
Nov. 15	Liberty	W 62-48
Nov. 20	Florida State	L 84-64
Nov. 24	Idaho State Univ.	W 83-53
Nov. 25	Iowa	L 90-75
Dec. 2	Hampton	W 71-50
Dec. 5	Rutgers	W 82-76
Dec. 21	St. John's	L 74-63
Dec. 28	St. Joseph's	W 85-72
Dec. 31	Wake Forest	W 83-76
Jan. 2	UNCW	W 73-51
Jan. 6	Hofstra	W 93-57
Jan. 8	Towson	L 54-51
Jan. 13	Delaware	W 66-51
Jan. 15	Northeastern	W 74-54
Jan. 20	Elon	W 76-70
Jan. 22	Towson	L 60-55
Jan. 27	Drexel	W 54-47
Jan. 29	William and Mary	W 79-64
Feb. 3	Hofstra	W 61-50
Feb. 5	Northeastern	W 67-49
Feb. 10	Delaware	W 77-42
Feb. 12	Elon	W 61-54
Feb. 17	UNCW	W 70-59
Feb. 19	College of Charleston	W 84-78
Feb. 24	Drexel	W 74-64
Feb. 26	William and Mary	L 62-53



MEN'S SOCCER

SEASON ENDS WITH A FOUR-GAME WINNING STREAK

For JMU Men's Soccer, a diversified team composition and formidable competitors created a distinct season for the players.

In 2016, the inclusion of international student-athletes from Spain, Germany, England and Switzerland, as well as the addition of 15 freshman players, brought many new perspectives to the team. The athletes had to adjust to a new team dynamic and determine how they would work cohesively with the addition of these new players.

"Trying to mesh the freshmen in with the returners took time," senior kinesiology major and goalie Kyle Morton said. "Trying to manage freshmen on the field was also difficult because they have to learn on the fly."

On Sept. 2, the Dukes faced an opponent that many considered to be the toughest of the season: the Pennsylvania State University.

"Their physicality and demeanor on the field [were] superior to ours," sophomore biology major and midfielder Griffin Cyphers said.

However, with a cheering crowd of fans, the team's morale seemed to remain high; the players seemed to push forward with the support of the attendees and stay motivated.

Despite encouragement from JMU fans during away games, many athletes seemed to prefer playing at home, where they could see familiar faces in the stands. For many players, friends and family came out to support them, regardless of the games' outcomes.

The team worked together to face challenges and build upon players' strengths during the season. Due to their hard work and perseverance, JMU Men's Soccer won five out of its last six games.

"In my time here, I can't remember a time when we won more than three games in a row, and this year, we won five out of six," Morton said.

According to team forward Carson Jeffris, a freshman who had yet to declare a major, the team began to see major results of their hard work toward the second half of the season.

"We grew closer as a team with the runs at the end of the season; those were the most memorable," Jeffris said.

As it transitioned into a new era for their team, JMU Men's Soccer gained stamina, leading players to several victories.

2016 SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Aug. 26	Lehigh	L 1-0
Aug. 28	NC State	L 3-2
Sept. 2	Pennsylvania State	L 1-0
Sept. 5	Virginia	L 3-1
Sept. 9	Georgia Southern	T 1-1
Sept. 13	La Salle	L 1-0
Sept. 17	Hofstra	L 2-0
Sept. 21	Radford	L 3-1
Sept. 24	Elon	T 0-0
Sept. 28	William and Mary	T 0-0
Oct. 1	Charleston	L 2-1
Oct. 12	Delaware	W 2-1
Oct. 15	Northeastern	L 1-0
Oct. 19	Longwood	W 2-1
Oct. 22	Drexel	W 2-0
Oct. 26	UNCW	W 2-0
Nov. 1	Robert Morris	W 2-1

WORDS: Jacqueline Garcia

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Alexandra Orndahl

Right: The men's soccer team competes against La Salle University at home.

Opposite: Senior Connor Coward, a midfielder and forward, receives the ball during a game.







FIGHT TO THE FINISH

WOMEN'S SOCCER HEADS TO THE CAA SEMIFINALS

During the 2016 season the JMU women's soccer team fought its way to the Collegiate Athletic Association semifinals in Brookline, MA. For the previous four years, the team had made it to this point in the CAA tournament, making JMU a standout contender for the Women's Soccer CAA Championship title. Ultimately, however, the Dukes lost to Drexel University 2-0.

But being a member of the team extended beyond simply playing the sport. Consisting of 27 members, the team was led by a head coach David Lombardo, who had served for 27 years. According to sophomore kinesiology major Hailcy Stein, academics always came first for Lombardo.

"The GPA set by JMU is lower than [the] GPA [he requires]," Stein said. "He expects us to be our best, and that sets us up really well for our futures."

The team had an important role both on and off the field, the most significant being the relationship between the women as teammates.

"Our teams are like little families. ... We sometimes have classes together, then we go eat together, then we go lift together, then we go ride together to practice," sophomore interdisciplinary liberal studies major Carmen Thomas said.

According to Thomas, being involved with the team created a foundational stepping stone for her future.

"I can make mistakes here and learn from them, and then use that [to] not make the same mistake in the future," Thomas said.

The JMU women's soccer program exemplified the term "student-athlete." Players were determined to get back to the CAA championship, as they did in 2015.

WORDS: Brady Thomas

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Sarah Winn





Left: Sophomore Stephanie Hendrie sprints down the field with the ball.

Below Left: Senior Ashley Herndon heads the ball during a game against Northwestern.

Below Right: Sophomore Stefanie Page prepares to kick the ball down to the field to another player.

2016 SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Aug. 11	Wake Forest	W 4-1
Aug. 14	Longwood	T 1-1
Aug. 19	Arkansas	L 4-3
Aug. 21	Northwestern	L 3-0
Aug. 26	Richmond	L 4-2
Aug. 28	Virginia Tech	L 2-0
Sept. 2	East Carolina	W 3-2
Sept. 4	Liberty	L 1-0
Sept. 9	Boston University	W 2-0
Sept. 11	Indiana	L 4-2
Sept. 16	VCU	W 3-2
Sept. 23	William & Mary	L 3-0
Sept. 25	Elon	W 3-1
Sept. 30	Drexel	L 1-0
Oct. 2	Delaware	W 3-1
Oct. 8	Towson	W 2-1
Oct. 14	Charleston	W 4-1
Oct. 16	UNCW	W 4-0
Oct. 21	Hofstra	L 4-1
Oct. 23	Northeastern	L 2-1
Oct. 30	Charleston	W 1-0
Nov. 4	Drexel	L 2-0



CROSS COUNTRY

TEAM WINS ECAC CHAMPIONSHIP

Cross country was often seen as a demanding sport that required a passion for running and a devotion to the team. For student-athletes like sophomore health science major Erin Saunders, sophomore intelligence analysis major Olivia Viparina and sophomore health sciences major Erica Jackson, this was the case.

Prior to attending JMU, these three students became involved with cross country as a form of training for other sports. However, they quickly discovered a love for running itself, which stuck with them into college. With encouragement from Coach Lawrence Rinker, the three went on to become successful JMU long-distance runners.

Erica Gray, a junior marketing major, talked about what the coach would do if a member injured.

"He really tailors [to] each runner individually," said Gray. "If today's not your day, then your workout will be a little bit different. He really cares about each runner individually."

Rinker's dedication to each runner helped them accomplish goals individually and as a team throughout the season. Gray placed 47th at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship.

Additionally, other runners had strong performances, such as Saunders, who placed

29th, Jackson, who placed 21st and Viparina, who placed 6th overall.

All 11 runners placed in the top 51, and, due to the collective efforts of each athlete, the team concluded its season by winning the ECAC Championship. The race took place at Van Cortlandt Park in New York City. Gray reflected that the finish line paralleling Broadway made the win sweeter.

Before winning the ECAC, the team had placed second overall at the Colonial Athletic Association Championship in Oct. 2016.

"I think we were only 15 points away [from first place] from [The College of] William and Mary," Saunders said.

Complementing a successful season as cross country runners, the women mentioned their commitment to their academics. In between practices and events, many would schedule study time on the buses, in their hotel rooms and in the locker room.

Rinker noticed and encouraged the players' efforts to study and win together. The determination of each runner to grow individually as student-athletes ensured victories for the group on and off the course.

WORDS: Raja Abdul-Badee

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Kathryn Magnier

2016 SCOREBOARD


DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Sept. 1	Liberty	L 15-40
Sept. 1	Virginia	W 40-18
Sept. 10	JMU Invitational	1st/6
Oct. 1	Paul Short Run	15th/45
Oct. 15	Pre-Nationals	35th/42
Oct. 29	CAA	2nd/9
Nov. 11	NCAA	10th/32
Nov. 19	ECAC	1st/7

Below: Members of the cross country team stick together while they compete in a race.

Below Left: A member of the team sprints toward the finish line.

Below Right: A couple members of the team run around a corner on the path.





FIELD Hockey

UNDERCLASSMEN ATHLETES PURSUE GREATNESS

With a team consisting of four juniors, nine sophomores and nine first-years, JMU Field Hockey took on the 2016 season without the presence of seniors. Instead, players looked to one another for inspiration and leadership as they progressed through the season.

“We want to make sure that everyone on the team has a voice and everyone is heard,” junior integrated science and technology major Sara Kraeutler said. “When every person on the field is engaged, ... we have the potential to be the best team in the nation.”

In August, the team went on a preseason camping trip that seemed to set the tone for the season. Even without seniors, the players

were able to take on individual roles to help guide the team. This trip encouraged them to look to every player to lead in some way.

Being a team without seniors did not seem to stop these women from success. On Nov. 4, JMU Field Hockey traveled to Newark, Delaware to compete against the College of William and Mary for the Colonial Athletic Association Semifinals.

In the semifinal game against the Tribe, freshman hospitality management major Lisa Lejeune made a goal in the first half, putting the Dukes in the lead. In the second half, Lejeune scored another goal that put the team up by two points.

“It was thrilling to be able to make an impact,” Lejeune said. “My team backed me up the whole way, and the best part was the way they cheered and hugged me after.”

The team won 2-0 and advanced to the finals against the University of Delaware on Nov. 6. Although the Dukes lost in the finals, the season was distinct in that the team did not include any graduating seniors, setting themselves up to take on the 2017 season as a larger, more experienced team.

WORDS: Samantha Swingle

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Alexa Orndahl



Sophomore Ashley Gippe competes during a night game in the rain. The ladies of JMU Field Hockey advanced to the finals during the 2016 season.

2016 SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT			
Aug. 26	Liberty	W 3-2	Oct. 7	Northeastern	W 3-2
Aug. 30	Longwood	W 6-2	Oct. 9	Drexel	W 5-2
Sept. 2	Appalachian St.	W 5-1	Oct. 14	Richmond	W 3-1
Sept. 4	American	L 2-1	Oct. 16	Lafayette	W 3-1
Sept. 11	Duke	L 7-1	Oct. 21	W&M	L 4-3
Sept. 16	New Hampshire	W 5-2	Oct. 23	Louisville	L 4-2
Sept. 18	Old Dominion	W 2-1	Oct. 28	Hofstra	W 2-1
Sept. 25	VCU	W 4-3	Oct. 30	Virginia	L 3-2
Sept. 30	Delaware	L 1-0	Nov. 4	W&M	W 2-0
Oct. 2	Towson	W 12-0	Nov. 6	Delaware	L 4-1



WOMEN'S LACROSSE

TEAM TRADITIONS LEAD TO SUCCESS

2016 SCOREBOARD

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Mar. 3	Colorado	L 15-14
Mar. 5	Denver	W 9-7
Mar. 9	Penn State	L 18-17
Mar. 12	Richmond	W 13-10
Mar. 19	Rutgers	W 16-11
Mar. 23	Virginia	L 10-9
Mar. 26	Maryland	L 18-6
Apr. 2	William and Mary	W 17-4
Apr. 8	Drexel	W 9-8
Apr. 10	Hofstra	W 20-8
Apr. 15	Elon	W 9-7
Apr. 22	Delaware	L 12-8
Apr. 24	Towson	W 11-9
May 6	Drexel	W 12-3
May 8	Towson	L 14-6
May 13	Stanford	L 9-8

Building team culture seemed to be important for bringing people together for the success of a team. The women's lacrosse team embraced its differences in the spring of 2016 to become closer to one another.

"There are so many different personalities for one team," junior history major Elena Romesburg said. "We are all so different, but we are all best friends and get along."

During the previous two seasons, the players got as far as the first round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament. The team's success was largely due to the relationships built outside of the sport, which many hoped to carry on in upcoming seasons.

"I think we're so close off the field that [it] translates to trust on the field," senior health sciences major Emily Poelma said. "Everyone works hard for each other, and that's why we're successful."

Special rituals, such as listening to the same playlists or wearing the same hairstyles to every game, were also important to the players. Other traditions were a little more one-of-a-kind.

"I eat toast during the pregame talk, [and] we rock the bus before every game,"

junior computer information systems major Haley Warden said.

The origin of "rocking the bus" before going into the locker room at away games was unknown, but it had been a longstanding team tradition.

"We are all in the aisle and we yell, 'left, right, left, right,' to shake the bus," Romesburg said. "Other people think we are crazy."

After defeating the No. 2 Drexel University team in the first game of the Colonial Athletic Association Championship on May 6, 2016, the team set their sights on higher achievements.

"Our team goals [for the 2017 season] are to compete each game, win the [CAA] Championship and bring another national championship to JMU," Poelma said.

By continuing these traditions and staying close to one another, the women's lacrosse team hoped to attain even more during the 2017 season.

WORDS: Kaleigh Smith

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Marissa Scholler



Above: Senior Cristina McCarthy works to defend the ball against her Drexel University opponent.

Below: Junior Elena Romesburg heads toward her opponent as she tries to score a goal.



TRACK AND FIELD

DUKES MAKE PROGRAM HISTORY

The JMU women's track and field team traveled up and down the East Coast to compete against other schools from around the nation. By the end of the 2015-2016 season, the team of 38 women tied for the third place title in the Eastern College Athletic Association Indoor Championships, and second place titles in the Colonial Athletic Association Championship and ECAC Outdoor Championship.

In early March 2016, the team traveled north to Boston University to compete in the ECAC Indoor Championships. The distance medley relay team, which was composed of junior marketing major Erica Gray, junior athletic training major Tyrah Burrow, sophomore kinesiology major Olivia Vigarina and sophomore Erica Jackson, who had yet to declare a major, finished second out of 23 teams with a time that ranked eighth on the All-Time JMU performance list.

Senior nursing major Carol Strock also made history by achieving a time in the 1-mile run that moved her from 10th to fifth on the All-Time JMU performance list.

Throughout the season, the athletes attended several invitational meets and hosted their own on April 23, 2016, at Sentara Park. At this meet, JMU recorded 24 personal records, three meet records and six new ECAC qualifiers.

"At home meets, we know most of the people that are there to watch us, and it's all about showing off our talents," junior health sciences major Madeleine McCarty said. "Since we always travel, our friends and family can't always make it to meets,

but at the home meet, we always have a great fan base, which makes us all super pumped up."

In early May 2016, the team traveled to Elon, NC, for the CAA championship. The team accumulated 163 total points, which included eight podium appearances. Graduate student and kinesiology major Amber Monroe lead the team with a gold medal in the shot put and discus throw. Monroe also set a JMU program and meet record in the discus with a throw of 55.45 meters.

A few weeks later, the women traveled to Princeton, NJ, and again made program history with a record-breaking performance in the 4x100 meter relay. Senior health sciences major Annie Johnson, senior biology major Kennedy King, sophomore accounting Meredith Willis and junior Aereale Scott who had yet to declare a major, finished with a time of 45.66 seconds, which set a new JMU program record and earned the Dukes first place out of eight teams.

"Going into the race, we were the underdogs, which made coming out on top so exciting," Johnson said. "All year there were little things taking place to throw off our race, and then it finally came together at this championship."

The JMU women's track and field team finished its season strong, due to the collective efforts from the student-athletes in each event.

WORDS: Samantha Swingle

PHOTO: JMU Athletics Communications

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



Above: Members of the track and field team sprint toward the finish line during a meet.
Left: Senior Kennedy King leaps up high for a long jump.



COLOR GUARD

COLOR GUARD PERFORMS FOR FANS AT HOME FOOTBALL GAMES

During football season pregame performances, fans saw spinning flags, rifles and sabers, but there was more to the color guard than just props.

As the Marching Royal Dukes performed the “James Madison University Fight Song,” members of the color guard danced and moved with their equipment to enthuse fans in the stands.

“Like any other student or JMU supporter, we’re just excited for our team and school,” junior Katherine Broehu said. “We share the field with both groups — the football team and the MRDs. We want to do our best to represent JMU and entertain the crowd in one way or another.”

Along with their pregame performance, the color guard performed during halftime to entertain the fans.

“I think the team is doing well when the crowd is more hyped up by the time the halftime comes, and we get the joy of adding to it,” Broehu said. “It’s very easy to feed off of each other’s energy on the field, and [there’s the] added fun of getting to feed off the crowd.”

After the football team scored a touchdown at a home game, the crowd

cheered and threw purple and gold streamers in the stands.

“When the Dukes are in the lead, there are more people in the stands watching us, and that gives me a huge adrenaline rush and makes everything more exciting,” junior music education major Brittany Siler said.

Aside from performing at football games, the color guard went to Allentown, Pennsylvania, to perform in a marching band competition at a local high school. This was an opportunity for the color guard to showcase its program without being scored or judged.

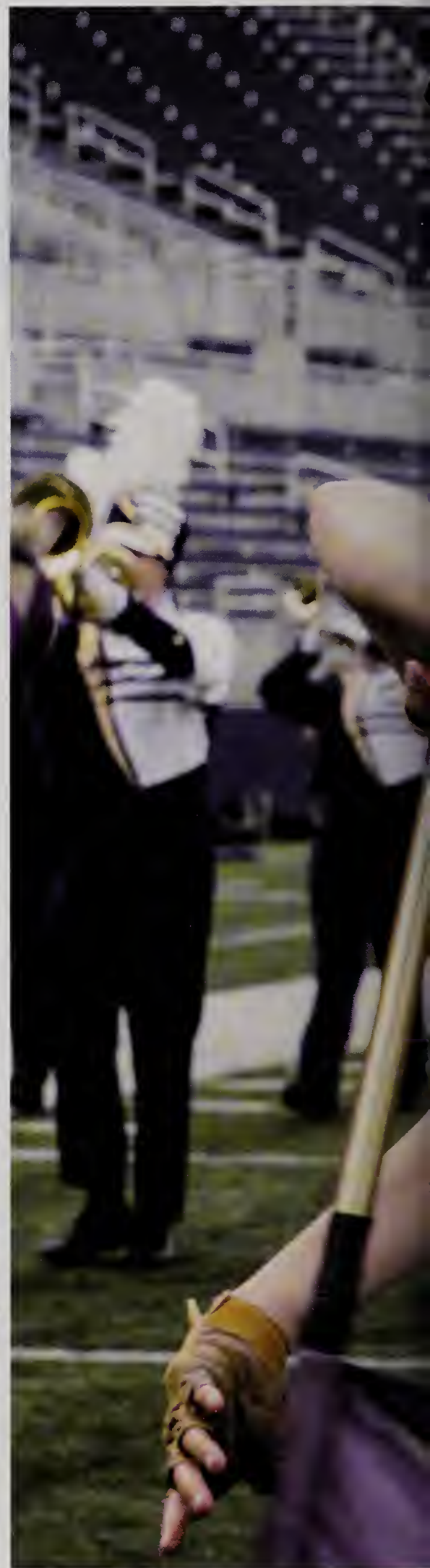
“It is extremely rewarding to perform for these high school students,” junior political science major Lacie Knight said. “They go crazy over us because we have so many members and have so much fun on the field.”

The color guard spent many hours learning choreography, practicing and performing to entertain football fans in the stands and support their fellow Dukes.

WORDS: Samantha Swingle

PHOTO: Courtesy of Annie Franks

DESIGN: Alexandra Orndahl





Opposite: Two members of the weapon line, freshman Sarah Villa (left) and junior Lacie Knight (right), perform in a postgame performance. The color guard sought to entertain the crowd during home games.

Above: Freshman Fallon Choinski smiles during a pregame show.

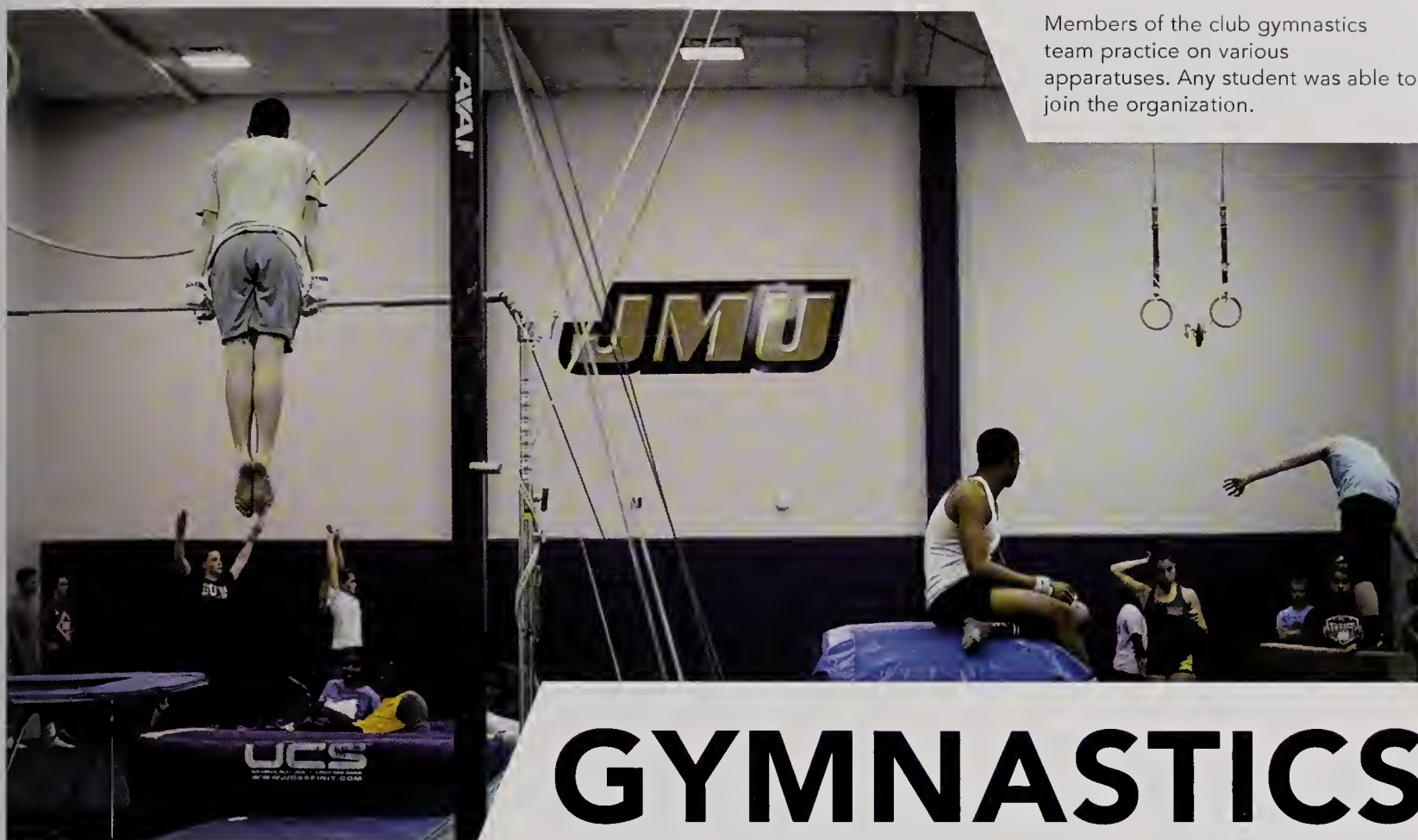


Above: A club gymnastics member displays her team gear.

Below Left: Sophomore Brandon Laitinen practices on the horse vault.

Below Right: Senior Kellie Hayden practices for her routine on the bars.





Members of the club gymnastics team practice on various apparatuses. Any student was able to join the organization.

GYMNASTICS

CLUB GYMNASTICS WELCOMES STUDENTS OF DIFFERING SKILL LEVELS

While trying new activities could be intimidating to some, learning new skills was often a part of the college experience. Club Gymnastics was open to students of all skill levels, ranging from those who had trained all their lives to those who had always wanted to try the sport.

"It's a great opportunity for people who do want to try something new, and [the community is] definitely encouraging and super supportive," sophomore health sciences major Natalie Lapedota said.

The team encouraged anyone who was interested in gymnastics to give it a try.

"People will come here wanting to learn and aren't scared to step out of their comfort zone," senior sports and recreation management major and club president Kellie Hayden said.

With the combination of low-level and high-level gymnasts came the opportunity for club members to be challenged.

"Some people come to continue their gymnastics career, and some people competed at really high levels, which is cool, and then they help people who have never done gymnastics before or people at lower levels," Kathleen Olifiers, a sophomore history

major, said. "The people who haven't done gymnastics before come here to have fun."

Some club members felt that it was helpful to have so much support without judgement.

"It motivates me to get to my goals even quicker than I even [imagined] I could have, and then when I finally do reach my goal, I realize all the hard work has paid off," sophomore accounting major Brandon Laitinen said.

Members were not required to compete, which gave them the option to try the sport without committing to the team or a regular practice. Club Gymnastics members also created a space for students to branch out and try new things that they would not have tried before.

"I think that everyone can bring something different to the team," Hayden said. "Sometimes, the people who have done it all their life are tired and burnt out a little bit, but the people who have never done it before, [are] excited and ready to learn, and ... it reenergizes the people who have done it all their lives."

Many members appreciated the club's inclusive atmosphere because they were

motivated to learn. This was true for Roland Joun Jr., a sophomore majoring in computer science and graphic design.

"I tried out for [another club sport], and they wanted people who had more experience and ... I was just trying to do it for fun," Joun said. "You never know; someone might be really good at it, but they never had the chance to practice."

Many JMU gymnasts felt that the concept of inclusivity improved their feelings toward gymnastics and their teammates. It eliminated the pressure that some felt to get first place.

"It's not so much of a serious thing where you've got to be perfect all the time," Lapedota said.

Club Gymnastics aimed to create a less intimidating environment that allowed newcomers to feel welcome. This type of atmosphere seemed to reflect JMU, where many felt welcome to try new, exciting things alongside a support system.

WORDS: Andrianna Boykin

PHOTO: Sydney Kane

DESIGN: Marissa Scholler

BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS

CLUB RACQUETBALL TAKES PART IN ITS SECOND COMPETITIVE SEASON

Racquetball was a sport in which up to four players hit a rubber ball back and forth against a wall at the end of a closed-in court. UREC provided seven racquetball courts specifically designed for students to try their hand at the sport, and for members of JMU Racquetball to practice their skills. In the fall of 2015, the team began competing in statewide tournaments.

The club closed out its first competitive season by serving its way into second place at the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Racquetball Conference. The tournament was held at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, which housed an expansive complex of racquetball courts.

As the 2016-2017 season began, the Dukes came in second place at their first two meets in the combined men's and women's team standings. Macy Mears, a junior finance major, and Abigail Mann, a junior business major, started out the 2017 spring semester as the first and second of the top 10 women in the conference, respectively.

Nathan McBarron, club treasurer and a sophomore intelligence analysis major, described Mears and Mann's accomplishments as being highlights of the season.

"[Mears and Mann] got first place in women's Division I doubles," McBarron said. "That's a pretty big deal for us. We're pretty proud of how good they are."

For McBarron and many other club members, going to meets at other universities was often a positive social experience.

"It's always the same people [competing at meets]," McBarron said. "You build friendships with [members of the other teams]."

Despite having only been a competitive club sport for two seasons, JMU Racquetball gained experience as it grew in numbers and honed its abilities.

"We've actually done pretty well, our girls team is great," McBarron said. "We're starting to get more people, and we've been having people [move] up."

For McBarron, the aspect of the sport he enjoyed the most was the combination of logic and agility required to play well.

"I really love how fast-paced it is; the ball can come off the wall at some pretty high speeds," McBarron said. "There's a lot more thinking and angles that go into it than it is just brute force and speed. You really have to think about where your opponent is and try and think a couple moves ahead of them to place the ball on the wall properly."

Benjamin Stahl, club president and a sophomore education major, liked that the sport allowed for the formation of new friendships.

"When you're not playing racquetball, you're out there just sitting with [the other members] and joking with them," Stahl said. "Even when you are playing racquetball, they're good sports about everything. They're good winners and good losers. Everybody's trying to get better at it."

As for the future of the organization, Stahl looked forward to expanding the girls team and improving their skills in order to advance to Division I. In the meantime, the club focused on having fun and gaining experience as student-athletes.

WORDS: Michelle Criquei

PHOTO: Nicole Landry

DESIGN: Kenneth Busic



Above: Junior Justin Witofsky moves to hit a ball in the UREC racquetball court. The racquetball team often practiced together for upcoming matches.

Below: Sophomore Sean Grier practices his racquetball skills. Many team members played in their free time.





A Tae Kwon Do instructor directs students during a club practice. Instructors often taught skills that not only were martial arts forms, but also safety skills.

TAE KWON DO

TAE KWON DO CLUB PROMOTES SELF-DEFENSE TECHNIQUES

Some students felt that self-protection was an important skill to learn. No matter the opponent, many desired to understand how to defend themselves. Having this ability often meant learning a form of hand-to-hand combat, which could vary from karate to boxing.

At JMU, this life skill was taught at the Tae Kwon Do Club. Throughout the semester, this organization set up different simulations to help students to practice their martial arts skills.

"Usually, some alumni come in and help teach us scenarios that could be applicable to [life] outside the club," Maximillia Jackson, a senior biology major and the club's vice president, said in an email interview. "For example, we have been taught how to maneuver out of a bear hug, [which is] when someone comes up behind you and basically gives you a restraining hug."

The scenarios that the club set up seemed to be helpful to members.

"We [taught] a girl for about a year, and she actually encountered a situation at a party where someone attacked her, and she managed to escape safely from that due to the training," Patrick Haggerty, a senior public policy administration major and the club's president, said.

Haggerty also mentioned how alumni benefited from the curriculum.

"We've had alumni ... who have [gone] on to become police officers and SWAT team [members]," Haggerty said. "They come back to teach seminars."

One of Haggerty's favorite seminars that an alumnus led was Violent Encounter Response Training, or V.E.R.T.

"[The alumnus] has been in the Prince William County police force," Haggerty said.

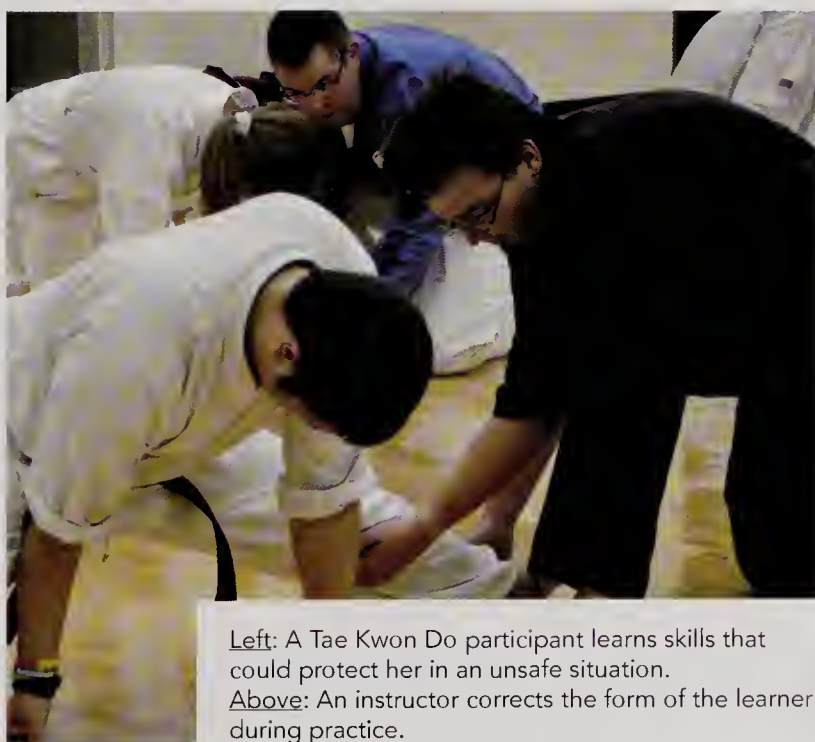
"He's been on that [team] for almost 20 years. He teaches the mentality of these violent encounter situations and how you should enter and exit them as safely as possible."

The Tae Kwon Do Club taught not only martial arts, but also how to fight back in dangerous situations. These lessons also enabled its members to go on to become leaders, teaching others how to remain strong in threatening situations and, in turn, helping JMU students to survive in this world.

WORDS: Raja Abdul-Badee

PHOTO: Nicole Landry

DESIGN: Madison Ebbert



Left: A Tae Kwon Do participant learns skills that could protect her in an unsafe situation.

Above: An instructor corrects the form of the learner during practice.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

STUDENTS PLAY FOR THE FUN OF IT

For many sports, players were required to try out for the team, attend weekly practices and travel miles for competitions. However, the intramural sports offered at JMU had a different team structure.

Intramural sports had only one requirement: A player must be JMU faculty, staff or a student. There were over 20 intramural sports that did not require tryouts or experience to play, and every sport had a post-season tournament.

Participants were able to create their own team and come up with a team name. Teams could be all-men, all-women or co-ed. Many different student organizations created their own intramural sports teams, but some consisted of friends and classmates.

Andrew Greco, a junior social work major, created his intramural flag football team, the Footbrawlers, with mutual friends and nine of his Hillside Hall hallmates from freshman year.

“Playing an intramural sports gives us a great chance to interact with friends and classmates outside of a school setting,” Greco said. “The competitiveness and playing with friends is a great time and we get to play other JMU teams, which makes things exciting.”

By the end of the regular season, the Footbrawlers were undefeated with a 10-0 record, and continued on to the final championship game. The winner of this flag football tournament received the coveted Intramural Sports Championship T-shirt.

On the cold and foggy night of Nov. 16, 2016, the teams that made it to the championship played the most important flag football game of the season. The game with ended with the Footbrawlers on top with a score of 42-20.



“It was a fun game to play. We were all excited to win the championship and stay undefeated the entire season,” Greco said. “We all went to Cookout after the game and got something to eat as a team. The championship shirt was a plus.”

The season was also a success for many of the staff members who spent hours working to make sure the Intramural Games ran smoothly and participants had fun.

“It is a team effort when it comes to making the program a success,” said Teesha Monroe, a graduate assistant for Intramural Sports and Special Events. “For the players, the highlight of the season is often winning games and making it to the championship game. For the staff, we enjoy watching students develop through the challenge of officiating and managing sports.”



Above: Students play intramural flag football in the sunlight.
Below: A group of students huddle up before a game of intramural basketball.

While many students participated in intramural sports, others worked at the games. A UREC student staff, composed of 26 site managers and around 125 officials, worked at intramural sports games on a nightly basis, all year round.

“Student development is the core of UREC and that is why I want to be here,” Monroe said.

Intramural sports allowed students to connect with friends and the JMU community. Whether a student was participating in a sport, or involved in working the games, intramural sports provided a new opportunity for students to get involved.

WORDS: Samantha Swingle

PHOTO: Courtesy of UREC

DESIGN: Kenneth Basic





BOARDERLINE

CLUB FOR SNOW ENTHUSIASTS SHREDS THE SLOPES

For a large campus, JMU's extracurriculars helped to create smaller communities that were in line with students' interests. Boarderline was one such club that took a fun-loving family feeling all the way down the slopes.

Formed around a passion for winter sports, Boarderline invited all snowboarders, skiers and snow sport enthusiasts to participate in the group.

"The community is phenomenal. The friends you make here — for me, it's been my entire college career — they'll be my friends for life," William Cabell II, the club's president and a senior business major, said. "It's just a really good group of people [who] you can trust."

Jordan Engebretth, the club's vice president and a senior graphic design major, explained that the reason many club members got along was due in part to a shared interest in winter sports.

"I didn't really have a whole clique of people until I found Boarderline, and it's just

[full of] like-minded people who like to ski and snowboard as much as I do," Engebretth said. "We're just such a big club, so there's always more people to meet."

In 2017, the club planned to take three winter sports trips, going as far as Breckenridge Ski Resort in Colorado and Canada over spring break.

"I think [there are] 30 of us that are going, and we're all living together in condos and it's going to be amazing," Gina Castanzo, a freshman biology major, said. "We're skiing for four days and are going to have so much fun."

Students seemed to be drawn to Boarderline because of its adventurous, snowy trips, but many stayed for the connections they made with fellow members.

WORDS: John Kelly

PHOTO: Dominique Dean

DESIGN: Alexandra Orndahl



Above Left: Senior Jennifer Frank and sophomore Alexander Petze look over a pair of skis before the club's big trip to Colorado.

Above Right: Gina Castanzo, a freshman poses with her snowboard, ready to head out to Colorado.

Left: Senior Adam Swierczewski poses with a freshly waxed board.

handball

TEAM HANDBALL OFFERS ALTERNATIVE CLUB SPORT

Whether it was the thrill of competing in a fast-paced sport or simply a way to get together with friends, Team Handball was not leaving JMU on the bench. Introduced to campus life in 2015, the club seemed to have become a student favorite.

“Handball is the second most popular sport in Europe, and it’s an Olympic sport, which a lot of people don’t know,” senior public policy administration major and club president Alex Goldberg said. “It’s kind of like a hybrid of soccer and basketball, with the same movements as ultimate Frisbee.”

Tanner Weaver, a senior business management major and the club’s vice president, elaborated on the rules of the sport.

“[Handball is] a fast-paced game, up and down the court,” Weaver said. “The object is to score more goals than the other team.”

The sport was a blur of motion that seemed to enthrall spectators. At handball practices, students would often wander in to see what the commotion was about and

become captivated by players’ fluid and energetic movements.

“Personally, I just like the fast-moving aspect of [handball] and the physicality of it,” senior business major and club founder Aaron Foster said. “Everybody out here are people we’ve met in the past year, and it’s just a cool way to bring us all together.”

The handball members seemed to be dedicated to the sport while consistently contributing to the positive team atmosphere.

“This is our sport that we come to every week and spend our time with, so if ball is life, to us, it’d be handball,” Weaver said.

Although handball was a recent introduction to JMU, it gave students an alternative way to be competitive and engage in physical activity.

WORDS: John Kelly

PHOTO: Dominique Dean

DESIGN: Kathryn Magnier



Above: The handball team lines up for a photo. In the fall of 2016, the club sport began its second year at JMU.
Left: Sophomore goalie Vance Bowman blocks a goal and looks for an open teammate to pass the ball.

PAINTBALL CLUB

STUDENTS REESTABLISH SPORTS CLUB

Fast-paced, action-packed and splattered with vivid ideas, paintball was a colorful sport that made a comeback at JMU.

"Paintball is an adrenaline-filled sport with crazy, hectic things happening all at once. But it requires athleticism, it requires strategy and it's just a blast," freshman accounting major and club vice president Kyle Trissel said.

After a year of inactivity, Trissel and club president Carter Haber, a freshman engineering major, worked to revive Club Paintball. The club had become sidelined after the previous president graduated.

"I think it's worth reviving, because not a lot of people know about the sport. I think it needs to start at the collegiate level just because that's where people are most passionate about athletics," Trissel said.

Trading the classic splattering paintball for a more indoor-friendly rubber ball, the revitalized club practiced in UREC and planned to take the tournament scene by storm.

"We'll actually have a pro team, and then we'll have a recreational club," Haber said.

Regardless of which team the members were on, they practiced together through small scrimmages. Taking up their markers, splitting into teams and lining up on opposite sides of the court, they ducked and hid behind covers of various shapes and sizes, running numerous drills to hone their skills.

"We'll be doing what's called Speedball. It's two teams facing each other, trying to get to the other team's side to sound a buzzer," Haber said.

Energized about their sport and working together to qualify for tournaments, the students in Club Paintball were driven to bring another successful sport to JMU.

WORDS: Dominique Dean

PHOTO: John Kelly

DESIGN: Christine Garrett



Above: Sophomore, Benjamin Pocs takes practice shots with his marker behind cover.

Left: Junior Troy Goddard takes aim down the field.



CLUB ROWING

ROWERS TAKE TO THE WATER FOR COMPETITION

When students heard the word “rowing,” some may have thought of individuals paddling down a stream. The JMU Club Rowing, however, defied misconceptions about the sport, demonstrating that it was a fierce physical activity.

While most clubs on campus met in the evenings or late afternoons, Club Rowing convened at 5:30 a.m. This was a venture most rowing members were willing to take on, because the word “challenge” was the name of the game.

At practices, many novice rowers had to deal with the struggle of “catching crabs,” or the oar blade catching in the water, which could be forceful enough to throw a rower out of the boat.

“I was a split second away from getting ejected [from the boat] once,” sophomore communication studies major Stephen

Abramowitz said.

As soon as rowers got over the hurdle of “catching crabs,” they had to utilize techniques to get synchronized with their teammates.

“How you know you’re rowing well is [when] you can feel it,” Abramowitz said. “There’s a pulse to the boat when everyone is in sync. It starts to sound like a heartbeat.”

Practices seemed to be just the start of the excitement. At the last regatta of the season in Chattanooga, TN, one of the boats competed with a Division 1 collegiate crew and broke a team record with a 5K best time of 18:12, placing JMU in 15th overall out of over 60 boats.

“We beat out collegiate teams that have paid coaching staffs and brand-new boats, whereas we’re a club team that’s totally student-run with used boats,” sophomore kinesiology major Angela Petretta said.

“The race was unlike any other thing

I’ve ever done — filled with adrenaline, nerves and joy.”

Some members believed that students outside the club would not understand the mentality that the organization embodied.

“People will say we are crazy for waking up before the sun [and] for willingly putting ourselves through such a strenuous activity,” sophomore health sciences major Casey Magee said.

But at the end of the day, it was the feeling they experienced on the water that kept rowers coming back.

WORDS: Gabriela Baker

PHOTO: Courtesy of Club Rowing

DESIGN: Marissa Scholler

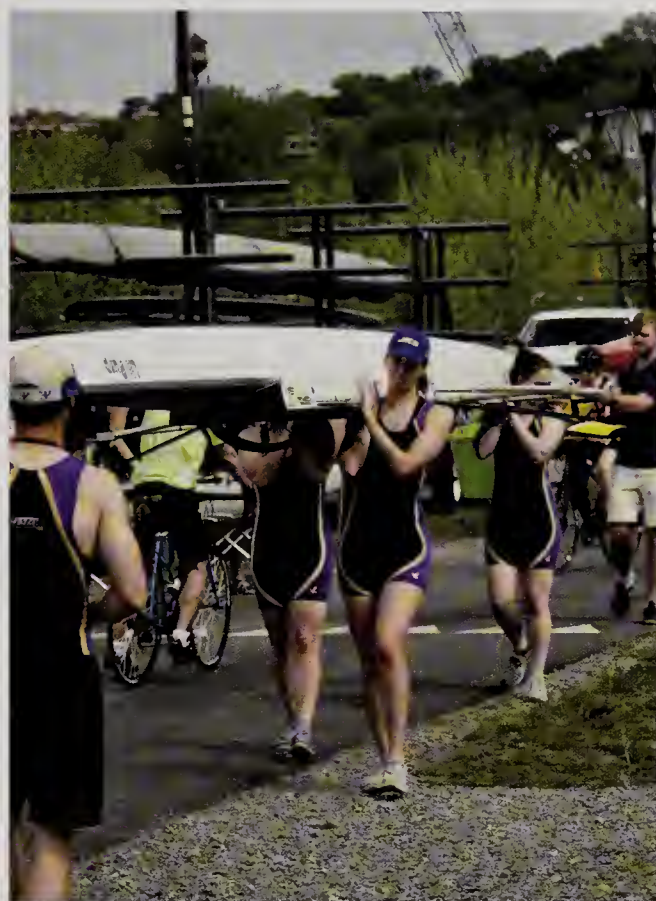


Opposite: Members of Club Rowing head down to the river.

Left: A club member holds onto a set of oars while waiting for his teammates.

Right: Preparing for a regatta, the team members carry a rowing boat on their shoulders.

Below: Dukes row down the river during a regatta.





ARCHERY CLUB

TEAM TEACHES STUDENTS TO USE A BOW AND ARROW

With a long history and decorated reputation, the archery club was seen by some as a hidden gem at JMU. Team members learned how to shoot a bow and arrow, compete locally and around the nation and strike fear into the hearts of their enemies — no prior experience necessary.

Founded in 1965, the club was only open for women until the 1970s.

“Since that time, the team has been responsible for many, many All-Americans,” Zane Rigney, club president and a senior majoring in intelligence analysis and geographic science, said. “JMU’s first All-American came from the archery team.”

The team produced more than a dozen national and world champions, and an Olympic Silver Medalist during the 2012 Games. Every year, the team hosted the Indoor Nationals tournament at JMU over spring break. Archers not only had the opportunity to display their talents and hard work, but they also had the chance to meet people from all walks of life and connect through their common interest in the sport.

The team recruited new archers during the fall semester, with no try-outs or experience necessary — just a positive attitude and

eagerness to learn. The club welcomed new members with no prior knowledge and helped them learn the basics, develop their skills and, when they had progressed enough, compete with the traveling team.

Practices were held on the field across from Festival, and inside Godwin Hall for the winter season. On Sundays, members came to keep consistent scores and track their progress throughout the year.

The archery club’s real magnetism, other than the opportunity to learn how to shoot a bow and arrow, seemed to lie with its members. The club attracted a diverse group of students under a common interest.

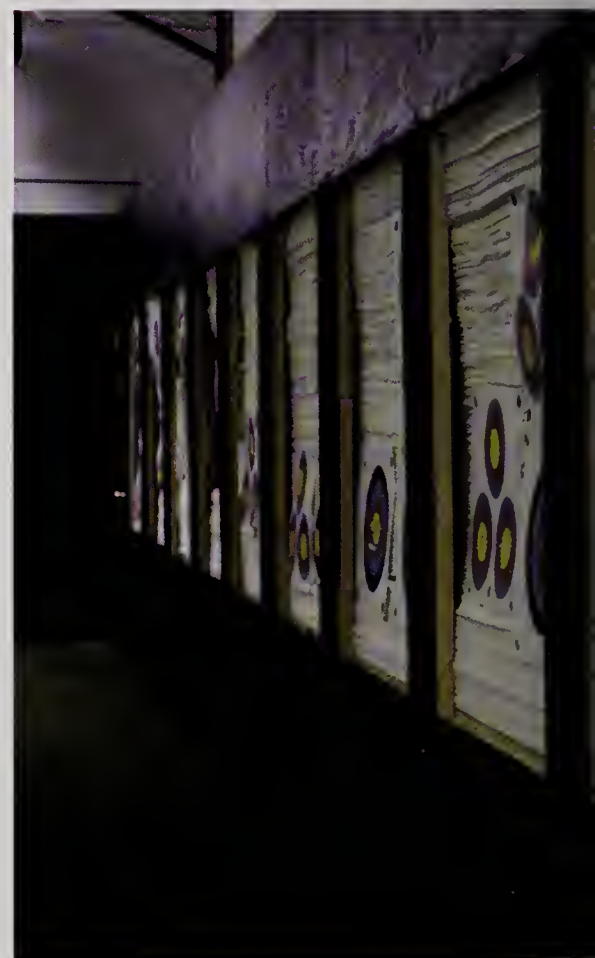
“Everyone is so different from one another,” Rigney said. “But yet again, we all share the passion for archery. There is a wide range of majors between us all, but we love to shoot.”

As the spring semester began, the club geared up for both indoor and outdoor tournaments after months of practice in the fall.

WORDS: Erin Paulson

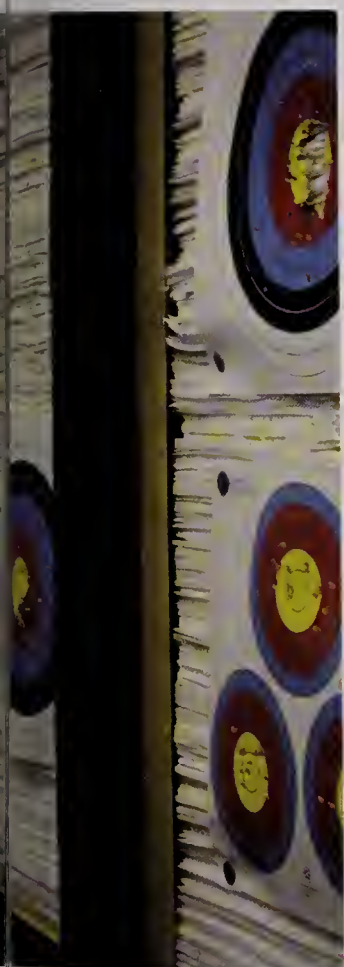
PHOTO: Ziyu Xu

DESIGN: Diana Rivera





Above: Senior Matthew Petty, sophomore Emily Hensley, sophomore Elena Hin and senior Tegan Fjerstad line up ready to fire off their arrows toward the targets.
 Below Left: A wall lined with targets displays the group's progress.
 Below Right: Fjerstad shoots an arrow from her bow.



ACADEMICS





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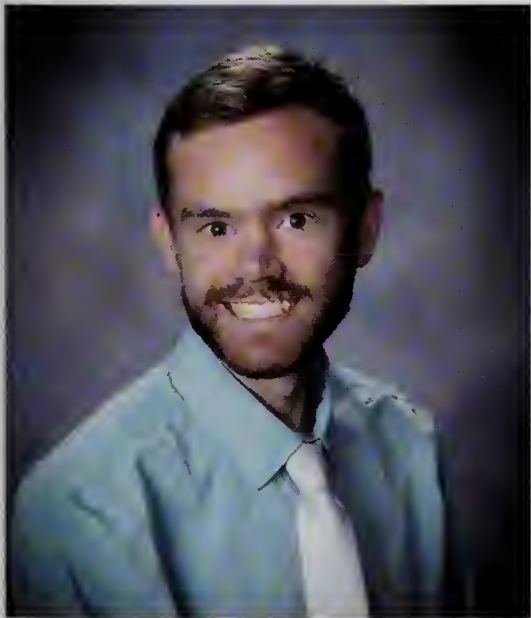
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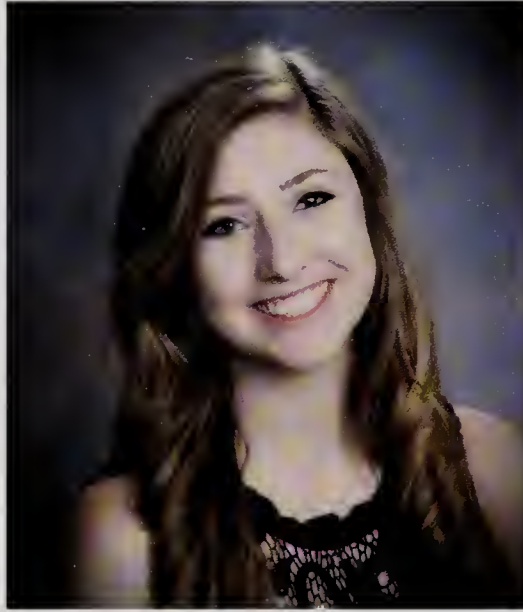


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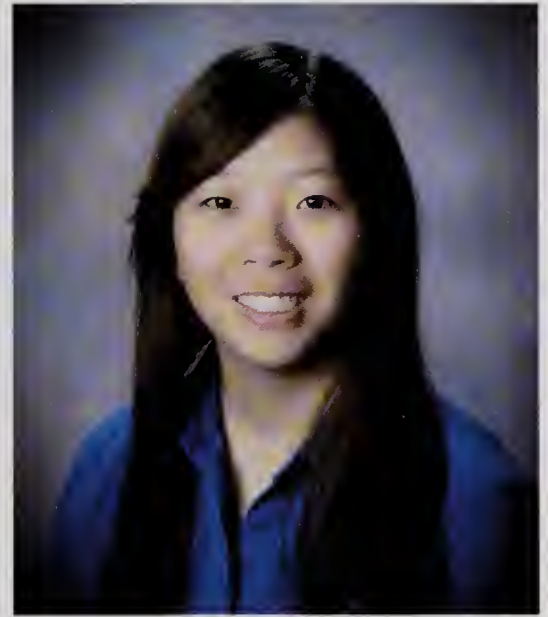
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Margaret Thomas | Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Meghan Tomasi | Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Alice Tsai | Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Suzan Windland | Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Christina Zapatero | Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies

...the plant grows. "When I was in
lower vertebrates.

Of all the presentations I saw that day, one caught my eye
mind. Weaving through another side of present, the speaker
titles to my right, I was stopped in my tracks by the title
"How heart cells embrace their fate." I have by now the idea
is a technical term and not a philosophical one. But I know
fully differentiated cell—one in which the proper program
has been activated to make a skin cell. I must call it a heart cell
the subject of this particular study was not the human heart but
of a lowly sea squirt. Still the words rang like poetry.

Just about a mile upriver from the biology museum was General
Hospital, where, not so long ago, Nancy and I had spent our
surgery. Cancer cells are those that rebel against their
hope for so much more—and it made it harder for her to know
that her cancer was in her womb. The ticking biological clock
became a ticking time bomb—and life.



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Regina Bill | Psychology



Felix Boateng | Health Services Administration



Lindsay Bohn | Nursing



Alexander Bowker | Health Services Administration



Emily Boyle | Health Sciences



Meredith Byrne | Psychology



Rebecca Ciafre | Communication Sciences & Disorders



Hannah Coles | Nursing



Marcos Contreras | Psychology



Jennifer Coppedge | Health Sciences



Guadalupe Corona | Nursing



Magdalene Dada | Nursing



Lauren Dallaglio | Communication Sciences
and Disorders



Erica Eckel | Communication Sciences and
Disorders



Kaila Ellison | Health Services Administration



Adam Ernst | Psychology



Lauren Fabrizze | Communication Sciences
and Disorders



Rebecca Fillman | Nursing



LaTroy Forbes | Health Sciences



Mollie Forman | Health Services



Colette Gaeta | Psychology



Gianna Galeotafiore | Health Sciences



Meredith Gallagher | Psychology



Kayla Gallico | Psychology



Lauren George | Communication Sciences
and Disorders



Holden Goodman | Kinesiology



Ashley Gray | Health Sciences



Morgan Gray | Communication Sciences
and Disorders



Samuel Henkel | Psychology



Reinier Hobbelman | Psychology



Abby Honbarrier | Health Sciences



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Kathryn Huntley | Dietetics



Claudia Kirkwood | Psychology



Mary Kneer | Health Sciences



Katherine Kraemer | Dietetics



Ja'Keia Lane | Nursing



Kristin Mack | Psychology



Breanna Malecki | Health Sciences



Sara McAllister | Health Services
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Laura McDavid | Nursing



Samantha McPeak | Social Work



MacKenzie Miller | Social Work



Emily Myers | Dietetics



Devin Nesselrodt | Health Sciences



Jessica Ostrowski-Wright | Psychology



Alexis Painter | Psychology



Allison Pawloski | Health Sciences



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Samantha Rohrbacher | Psychology



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Megan Roy | Psychology



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Kathlynn Sergent | Psychology



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Alyssa Skelly | Psychology



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Briana Susca | Communication Sciences
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Nathalie Talos | Health Sciences



Nikole Taylor | Health Sciences



Sarah Troy | Communication Sciences &
Disorders



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Andrew Castro | Intelligence Analysis



Jimmy Chung | Computer Science



Michael Colombo | Geographic Science



Allison Comparin | Intelligence Analysis



Kelly-Anne Crowley | Intelligence Analysis



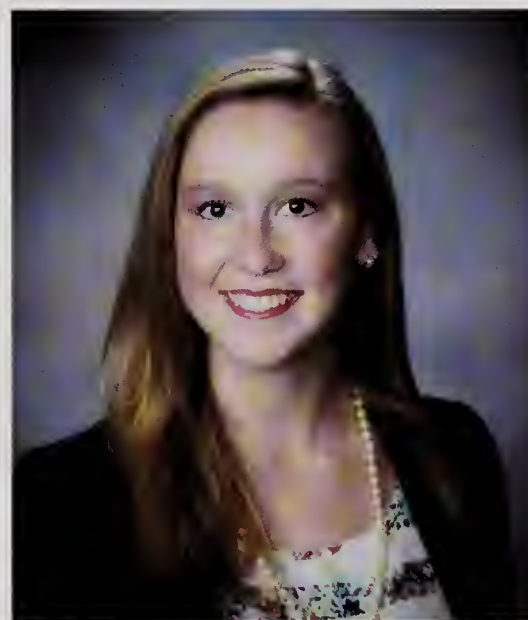
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Nicholas Fowler | Computer Science



Marissa Gross | Integrated Science and Technology



Andria Grossenbaugh | Integrated Science and Technology



Daniel Hawes | Computer Science



Kyle Heesen | Integrated Science and Technology



Joel Kaminski | Integrated Science and Technology



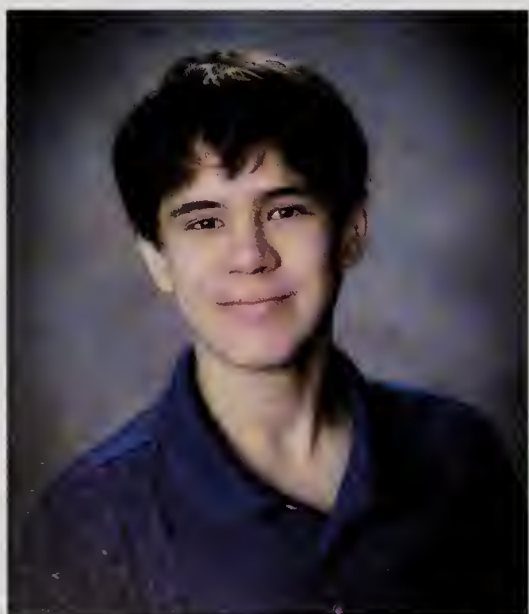
Christiana Katsoulos | Integrated Science and Technology



Jasmyn Kelly | Computer Science



Casey Kesterson | Computer Science



Quinlan Moore | Engineering



Tahli Moore | Geographic Science



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Melissa Gray | Biology



John Gullette | Physics



Kristen Hoffman | Biology



Rachel Korba | Biotechnology



Christopher Martin | Biology



Michael Colombo | Geographic Science



Elyssa Miller | Biology



Erica Mnich | Biotechnology



Hunter Moon | Biology



Monica Paneru | Biology



Premal Patel | Physics



Brittany Patterson | Chemistry



Casey Quinn | Chemistry



Cole Roberts | Biology



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Kenneth Busic | Graphic Design



Caroline Cicatko | Studio Art



Sarah Collins | Architectural Design



Bernadette Fitzgerald | Studio Art



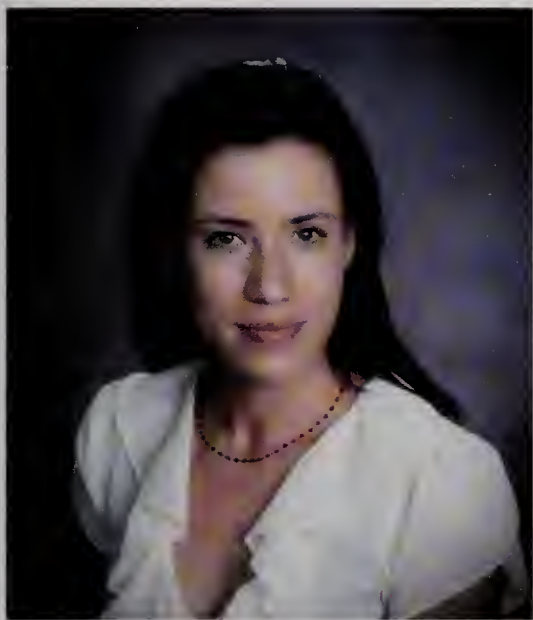
Samantha Gamble | Art History



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Anastasia Johnson | Theatre



Shannon Kenney | Art History



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ORGANIZATIONS



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



FIRST ROW Tyler Zabriskie, Amanda Lowry, Autumn Eavey, Kristen Flynn, Lauren Grossmann, James Sinkbeil, Amy Nuccitelli, Peyton Johnson, Anthony Green **SECOND ROW** Jennifer Stai, Mary Vanarsdall, Kelsey Johnson, Emily Lewis, Kevin Reifenberg, Kathryn Keeley, Joy Thompson, Lauren Williams **THIRD ROW** Javier Morales, Meaghan Wright, Sarah Ziegler, Dylan Parsons, Christina Lamason, Abigail Roberts, Emily Thornton, Kaylee Lamper **FOURTH ROW** Hannah Ackleson, Kyra McMahon, Kelly Watkins, Lauren Crebbs, Christen Kilgore, Suzanne Hoskinson, Dawn Byron, Madison Russo-Bradley, Blayne Brittingham, Sarah Coppola, Morgan Ferretti, Alaina Capodice **FIFTH ROW** Julia Loza-Vega, Aya Andos, Ana Clem, Brianna Dowell, Christine Swartz, Ashley Pecoraro, Kaitlyn Farrell, Natalie Phillips, Erin Bradley, Emily Iannucci, Densel Dagdagan, Adam McLuckie **SIXTH ROW** Paige Sinno, Megan Gallis, Kimberly Ellis, Carolyn Perkins, Doaa Kheiri, Aliece Carney, Dajah Berger, Erin Stout, Katie Mascali, Lauren O'Brien, Ashley Farnan, Jamie Moss **SEVENTH ROW** Kendra Wulf, Elizabeth Meehan, Jenna Scull, Taylor Guskind, Sierra Swanson, Ayana Alston, Shakori Dupree, John Hedrick, Jacqueline Cannon, Arya Moin-Amin, William Dalton, Michael Roadcap **EIGHTH ROW** Kellie Burns, Allyse DeBardi, Taylor Robertshaw, Raymond Benner, Kaitlyn Maki, Hunter Rabon, Garrett Robinson

STUDENT AMBASSADORS



FIRST ROW Meaghan Gallagher, Bridget DeMott, April Andrews, Nicholas DiNardo, Emma Lowery, Valerie Cateriano **SECOND ROW** Lizzet Suarez, Olivia Gentilcore, Nelia Maurizi, Meaghan Doherty, Holli Parker, Amanda Bomfim, Haley Lipton, Peyton Johnson, Morgan White **THIRD ROW** Jessica Dymon, Sydney Ashton, Melanie Southard, Elle Del Gallo, Brianna Gaston, Kathleen Willett, Allison Notorantonio, Amanda Libero, Lizett Barajas, Shannon Daly, Kendra Lerner, Danielle Guirgis **FOURTH ROW** Sabrina Moreno, Kaitlin McIntyre, Amanda Shuman, Madison Calder, Kasey Orange, Kerry McCullagh, Julia Chapman, Hailey Rogers, Meghan Tocci, Taylor Jackson, Michelle Huth, Maddie Matarazzo, Christian Burnett, Marissa Collier, Gillian Withers, Nicole Carothers, Casey Dwyer **FIFTH ROW** Rebecca Reid, Nicole Goff, Genevieve McDonough, Brendan Zack, Anna Steenland, Sean Clark, Thomas Kwalwasser II, Catherine York, Nicole Carothers **SIXTH ROW** Dan Miller, Dana Morris, Allison Hicks, Stephanie Rathjen, Cassidy Greenzeig, Heather Miller, Adrienne Cardulla, Kathryn Young, Gillian Dukoff, Mike Miller, Sean Button, Jessica Infanzon, Dyer Pace, Jigme Taring, Ralph Rich, Thomas Fereday **SEVENTH ROW** Evan Gallagher, Douglas Schilling, Kaitlin Pennington, Kelly Quigley, Casey Weisbecker, Julianna Boettger, Lydia Erickson, Amy Lebrecht, James Loving, Buddy Harlow, John Lobdell, Dylan Hoang, Brendan Nulty, Matthew Murphy, Ryan Soong, Drew Dembek

PING PONG CLUB



FRONT ROW Fox Nelson, Thomas Genovese, Cody Coker, Nathaniel Chapman, Gabriel Ploeger, Jack Foster, Christian Lebeque, Andrew Warren **SECOND ROW** Benjamin Pfister, Dennis McClure, Seyedkamyar Richard Holden III, Richie Holden, Dean Smith, Danielle Dias, Cortni Potts, Mandy Bartholomew, Soleil Rivera **THIRD ROW** Evan Schmit, Patrick Horn, Patrick Vigna, Breanna Brown, Angela Head, Nicholas Antonacci, Walter Schutz

EPSILON NU TAU



PICTURED Grant Huron, Carly Potomac, Bilal Chikalard, Hila Pridan, Juan Lopez, Lisa Colleli, Breanna Chewey, Megan Shaw, Brittany Loving, Matthew Thomson, Pam Marzella, Mary Gugliuzza, Patrick Carr

STUDENT SENATE



FIRST ROW Melissa Einhorn, Cynthia Poe, Aaliyah McLean, Halle Forbes, Naima Chughtai, Abigail Stempel, Alicia Campos, Caroline Steimel, Drew Barrar **SECOND ROW** Sachin Sundar, Molly Reynolds, Dustin Norton, Sophie LeFew, Abigail Clark, Eric Hoang, Alexandra Guendert, Maria Carotti, Niti Jadh, Gabriela Rios **THIRD ROW** Casey Donnelly, Emilia Otero, Gabriela Rudnick, Christine Ghoussoub, Jordan Owens, Eric Kaufmann, Sarah Knecht, David Vaughn, Caroline Mohan, Seemran Patel, Erin Coogan, Lindsay Perkins **FOURTH ROW** Benjamin Rosenberger, Reid Madison, Colin Moor, Caroline Marney, Christian Lovallo, Luke Borman, Kyle Trissel, Derek Light, John Carr, Matthew Mueller, Colleen Hall, Alexandra Barber, Renzo Olivari, Brooke Price **FIFTH ROW** Nicholas Kolecki, Julianna Boettger, Michael Walsh, Nicholas Williamson, Gregory Turner, KC Kristian, Michael Boone, Dermot McGee, Matthew Hershberger, Brian McGee, Josh Bacon

VIRTUAL DISTORTIONS DANCE CREW



FIRST ROW Joseph Sardegna, Kirsten San Nicolas, Cynthia Kovacich, Nicole Hoguet, Gabriella Calderon **SECOND ROW** Tenzin Tharpa, Kasia Burns **THIRD ROW** Jolly Dieu, Jessica Cornell, Emily Lund, Haley Nininger, Marcia McCants, Andria Grossenbaugh, Kaitlin Click, Ashlie Veronie **FOURTH ROW** Nhung Dao, Tristin Tran, Antoine Prince Jr., Abishek Ramakrishnan, James Shumaker, Michael Amico, Elise Mazur, Christiana Katsoulos, Anson Yan, Lindsay Matalavage **FIFTH ROW** Nathan Sese, Isabella Pascarelle

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON PI



FIRST ROW Katherine Dillman, Tori Klosko, Rebecca Weller **SECOND ROW** Samantha Lazarus, Alison Sall, Erica Berkowitz, Sarah Forstater, Rebecca Lebedun **THIRD ROW** Rachel Epstein, Whitney Ricker, Emma Friedman, Amanda Myers **FOURTH ROW** Elyssa Bonner, Alyssa Berman, Lilyanne Vogelsson, Caroline Fox, Penelope Weinstein

PHI MU ALPHA



FIRST ROW Christian Davis, Benjamin Dingus, Dylan Rye, James McKenzie, Nicholas Adams, Charles Frise, Chad Rohrbach, David Gwynn, Kevin Turnbull, Joseph McNure, David Hollsinger, James Pennington, Michael Smith **SECOND ROW** Timothy Roth, Evan Latanzi, Hunter Payne, Kenneth Halloway, Christopher DiMaiolo, Christopher Pennington, Matthew Bowles, Benjamin Ostapovicz, Noah Karkenny, Brian Junttila, Gunter Greenhalgh, Tyler Wolcott, Zachary Nicely **THIRD ROW** Riley Millward, Howard Kim, Mitchell Evans, Brandon Rhinehart, Corey Martin, Andrew Foote, Jeremy Wojton, Patrick O'Brien, Timothy John Horan, Graham McDowell, Manny Davis, Stephen Poehailos

GAMMA PHI BETA



FRONT ROW Simone Comer, Jessica Thoppil, Devan Davis, Caroline Rainey, Erica Hrudowsky, Lauren Dameron, Michaela Koep, Yara Chamma, Megan McDonald, Sarah Fowkes, Courtney Siffert **SECOND ROW** Danielle Nelson, Shanelle Harrell, Kathryn Kunkle, Brooke Lederer, Samantha Damanda, Deirdre McCarthy, Shelby Taylor, Sarah Johnson, Rachel Miller, Alexis Painter **THIRD ROW** Illana Doroteo, Alexa Ferrara, Kayla Magill, Sara Chamma, Katherine Catanzaro, Lena Harmata, Arianna Zoretich, Megan Baird, Evelyn Johnston, Vanessa Siracusa, Sierra Hnatiuk, Cara Geiger **FOURTH ROW** Savannah Miklos, Haley Walter, Caroline Marney, Jessica Eckhoff, Katelyn Richardson, Kristen Betzner, Amber Huggins, Hannah McDade, Brooke Potter, Susie Kelly, Makayla Davies, Samantha Sikorski

GAMMA SIGMA SIGMA



PICTURED Victoria Acampora, Emma Adams, Kara Alongi, Taylor Asgard, Alicia Ashby, Ashley Austin, Amanda Baird, Elizabeth Ballman, Nicole Bauernfeund, Angelina Benedetti-Flores, Caitlyn Benjamin, Anna Berger, Rachel Bergstresser, Emily Bishop, Juliana Boettger, Sydney Bolyard, Andrea Brusig, Nicolette Chuss, Camille Colby, Melissa Cote, Elizabeth Craig, Victoria Cross, Morgan Cunningham, Emery Dahl, Julia Day, Erin Dellork, Riana DeLucca, Catherine Devlin, Megan Dibartolo, Mallory Donaghue, Elizabeth Donovan, Katherine Donovan, Rebecca Eacho, Melissa Einhorn, Megan Elliot, Kaila Ellison, Megan Evans, Delani Farrar, Abigail Fine, Abigail Firsching, Kimberly Fleck, MacKenzie Frakes, Paige Franklin, Nina Garland, Rachel Garretson, Mahala Gates, Elena Gerome, Alanna Gillespie, Susana Gutierrez, Valeria Hardy, Mackenzie Hargrave, Kristina Harlan, Molly Harris, Kaelyn Heard, Elyse Hieronymous, Kayla Hindt, Isabelle Hoagland, Kristen Hoffman, Megan Hollifield, Emily Howard, Eliana Huffman, Abigail Hunter, Megan Hunter, Dellaney In, Sara Jones, Sierra Kahler, Lina Katemtou, Le'Aria Kelley, Isabel Kerr, Allison Kinneberg, Jennifer Kirk, Samantha Kissane, Kaitlyn Kitchen, Margaret Koskinen, Kelsey Kraus, Julia Kroeger, Emily Kunowsky, Sarah Lake, Katherine Lane, Elizabeth Lee, Lyndsay Leisher, Grace Lesniak, Marisa Lewis, Courtney Lindsey, Ashley Little, Kirsten Locker, Claire Lorenz, Alyssa Lothamer, Kristen Lowe, Marcela Luna, Catherine Lynch, Emily Martin, Jasmine Matos, Morgan McAllister, Jenna McFaddin, Danielle Mills, Laura Mills, Carly Mokhiber, Katy Mulligan, Alexis Murphy, Brenna Murray, Soley Nalls, Isabel Nappa, Kelly Ndayizigiye, Townley Neal, Paulina Nguyen, Samantha Nicholson, Rosemary Nwokeforo, Nicolette Omelczuk, Bridget O'Sullivan, Brittany Patterson, Sraavya Polisetti, Audrey Porter, Elizabeth Procak, Elizabeth Puckerin, Jordan Pyle, Imani Rainey, Elizabeth Redford, Tiffany Riggs, Jasmyne Robinson, Cathy Robison, Gabi Rodriguez, Ali Rondi, Veronica Russell, Lauren Samuels, Mona Sheikh, Catherine Sheng, Susan Schott, Ellie Smith, Skylar Smith, Emily Spicer, Anna Stackhouse, Abbey Stevenson, Jemma Stratton, Rachael Talento, Hannah Thomas, Alexis Tilling, Caroline Tiu, Rebekah Tolson, Nubia Toomer, Kaitlyn Tummarello, Morgan Twomey, Gina Valentino, Morgan VanSciver, Alexandra Volko, Taylor Volko, Abigail Wann, Leeanne Ward, Emma Ware, Rachel Whittaker, Sara Willi, Kayla Williams, Morgan Wolf, Kossana Young

WOMEN'S WATER POLO



FIRST ROW Madeline Roewer, Justine Chester, Amanda Kousen, Lindsey Hunter, Theresa Berg, Sophia Brown, Amber Morris, Olivia Kaplan, Katelyn Villani, Christine Mountain, Kathryn Nielsen, Alexa Fagan **SECOND ROW** Meade Reihl, Cassidy Welch, Caris Giessler, Madailine St. Ledger, Sarah Rulon, Brigitte Wendel, Megan Enneking, Courtney Hermes

CLUB SOFTBALL



FIRST ROW Kaitlyn Jones, Julia Lucas, Erin Woods, Tatum Davis, Erica Barrett, Cam Hall, Emily Robinson, Cara Headrick **SECOND ROW** Katie Taylor, Olivia Smith, Breanna Bosley, Delani Farrar, Brianna Baranowski, Kelly Winans, Amber Harris, Sarah Winn **THIRD ROW** Alanna Gillespie, Samantha Meyers

FILIPINO AMERICANS AT MADISON



FRONT ROW Nathaniel Pelayo, Ryan Soriente, Beo Nguyen, John Echevarria, Adriel Vitaliz, Leif Jomuad, Kiana Misterio, Cathleen Madlansacay, Andrea Admana, Julianne Agudo, Kathleen Bidad, Francesca Gavino, and Brigette Stump

FOSTERING ABYSSINIA



FIRST ROW Ruth Taye, Jessica Liu **SECOND ROW** Tsion Armidie, Katherine Norton, Mariam Bekele, Bethlehem Adem, Hewan Mengsteab, Obsitu Ahmed

WOMEN'S RUGBY



FIRST ROW Rachel Ruggieri, Tara Jobin, Shannon Baden, Rachel Buzzeeo, Aliceanna Starrs, Samantha Gamble, Mahlet Ayele, Paige Casey **SECOND ROW** Megan Link, Amanda Cathey, Kearstin Kimm, Olivia Saacke, Caitlin Henry, Amy Antigha, Chelsea Ward, Roshna Wunderlich **THIRD ROW** Caoimhe O'Sullivan Roche, Megan Toomy, Dana Briosos, Adrianne Berry, Sam McAnallen, Keiva Brannigan, Mia VanderToorn, Nicole Hernandez, Amy McQuaide, Isabelle Caruso

HERMANDAD DE SIGMA IOTA ALPHA



PICTURED Roxet Romero-Palacios, Cindy Castillo, Jacelyn Granados, Hannah Creighton

SOCIETY OF ENTREPRENEURS



FRONT ROW Andrew Kennerley, Devin Hogue, Angelika Johns, Sina Shahcheraghi, Samia Jrab, Navya Dev, Bardia Saffarpour, Charles Canova, Connor Feroce, Dwight Torculas, John O'Neill **SECOND ROW** Fabrice Mulumba, Akram Abdou, Jean Clary, John Matthewman, Daniel Lambert, Wyatt Weston, Connor Parsons, Matthew Mueller, Peter Wold, Ryan Smith, Skylar Wolen, Christopher Ashley

RELAY FOR LIFE



FIRST ROW Jennifer Markfeld, Alexandra Sward, Kamille Aiello, Elizabeth Spellman, Nicole Ailey, Bailey King, Laura Streaman **SECOND ROW** Whitney Johnson, Brian Sweeter, Megan Zook, Emily Kyle, Amanda Bomfim, Monica Cardozo, Anna Wahlstrom, Rebecca Stopsky, Rachel Rubin, Isabella Broaddus **THIRD ROW** Jacob Singer, Jane Meiser, Suzan Windland, Katelyn Gaffney, Brigid Greaney, Ned Sieverts, Cara Howley, Emily Lacy

STUDENTS WITH DIABETES



FIRST ROW Francesca Lamoreux, Melissa Gray, Allison Zeppuhar, Amanda Dolan **SECOND ROW** Francesca King, Dayna Collins, Emily Nelson, Hayley Fried, Emily O'Hara, Katherine Moore, Sarah Hill

DELTA SIGMA PI



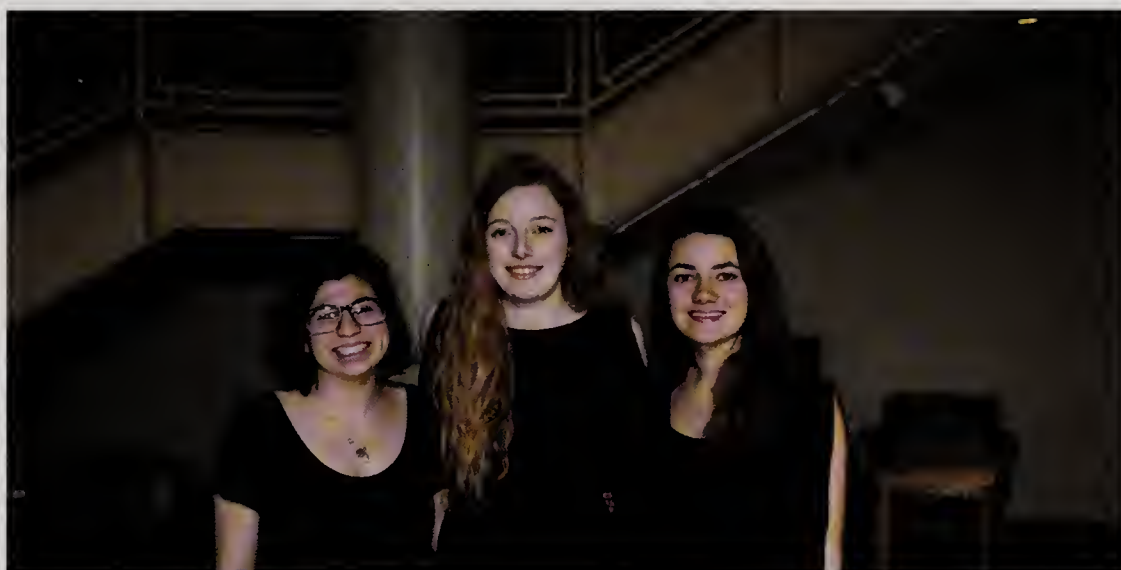
FIRST ROW Alyssa Tran, Miranda Tolley, Shanika Wijegunawardena, Nicole Carminucci, Haylie O'Day, Kaleigh Chiodini, Ysabella Chua, Anna Eiring, Olivia Hendrzak, Hayley Sunderman **SECOND ROW** Navya Dev, Mackenzie Hertel, Jenna Dvorin, Joshua Bolson, Jacob Dorsey, David Haftel, Brittany Raffa, Jessica Summers, Illana Doroteo, Tova Yarbrough, Dwight Torculas, Avery Myers, Amanda Fiorina **THIRD ROW** Robert Ciasullo, Weston Simonides, Austin Ritter, Zachary Wedemeyer, David Brown, Peter Lopuch, Samuel Sireci, Andrew Orozco, Ramzi Sobhani, Brendan Reece, Madelyn Stuckey, Erika Rodgers, Julia LaBariera, Peter Cerquone

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRIES



FIRST ROW Father Peter Nassetta, Christina Shaw, Samantha Steward, Madison Ulmer, Sarah Howard, Sandra Richie, Jeannine Rossi, Janine Lorenzo, Julianne Agudo, Keith Brown, Daisy Becerra
SECOND ROW Anthony Dalida Jr., Stephanie David, Suzan Windland, Jacqueline Garcia, Paige Riddle, Lauren Telinde, Alaina Agatone, Rachel Boyce, Joseph Capuano, Isabel Ledesma, Marybeth Ward, Andrea Bailey, Hannah Bennett, Julia Pipan
THIRD ROW Pat Dunford, Jozef Heerschap, Austin Ward, Gian Gonzalez, Steve Ernst, Nick Antonaccho, Casey Dwyer, Kaitlynn Durkin, Luke Borman, Teresa Cummings, Bailey Lakata, Marley Wickum, Rachael Bridges, Sarah Robertson, Nikolas Mikus
FOURTH ROW Erica Panasiewicz, Meredith Popernack, Mikala Wolter, Michael Dalisera, Ryan Walters, Chad Barron, Brittany Fontana, Timothy Van Gorder, Samuel Swanson, Whitney Carlson, Elanie Phelps, Alisa Van de Crommert
FIFTH ROW Thomas DeGraba, Matthew Style, Collin Ashley, Javier Carreño Garcia, Patrick Ogden, Connor Adams, Jared van de Crommert

HILLEL



PICTURED Rebecca Weller, Caroline Fox, Elana Turczynski

EXIT 245



FIRST ROW Peter Barber, Leif Christian L. Jomud, Martin Javelosa, Joao Versos, Skyler Rubin, Christian Mann **SECOND ROW** Daniel Clark, Hunter Beatty, Sean R. O'Brien, Samuel Williams, Samuel Mayman, Julian Miller

CLUB SWIMMING



FIRST ROW Michael Amico, Caitlin Sargeant, John Feden **SECOND ROW** Jessica Mocha, Carly Wright, Matthew Hawks, Elizabeth Elia **THIRD ROW** Maddie Wolk, Rachel Ellsmore, Kelsey DeMatte, Caroline Haines, Deirdre McCarthy, Kaylin Loch, Christina Kolanowski, Alexis Cutler, Anna Fracasso **FOURTH ROW** Ella Poletto, Aya Andos, Ciara Barret, Christine Mountain, Rachel Jones, Francesca King, Julia Lindsey **FIFTH ROW** Jordyn Palla, Erik Vasquez, Meaghan Flynn, Annika Soloka, Paige Moody, Gavin Dzurenda, Jacqueline Garcia, Jennifer Russell, Kathryn Johnson **SIXTH ROW** Angela Gifford, Kaitlyn Sweeny, Jacob McAllister, Victoria Coughlin, Belinda Hanes, Juliana Kaiser, Lillie Spivey, Jessica Rhan, Caroline Sullivan, Patrick Sperandeo, Grant Folsom, Matthew DeMalo, Jackie Yeh **SEVENTH ROW** Matthew Kohler, Connor Pangman, Matthew Lubin, Jacob Carlin, Robert Given, Samuel Kettlewell-Sites, Kevin Mastracci

BE THE MATCH ON CAMPUS



FIRST ROW Peter Olivares, Megan Iaconelli, Tye Burris, Meshayla Lumpkin **SECOND ROW** Thomas Wishart, Aaron Dudley, Adam Tamny, Morgan Lewis, Taylor Brown, Owen Leonard, Matthew Medwed

THETA CHI



FIRST ROW Carlos Cox, Kyle Purcell, Matthew Dromazos, Maxwell Garris, Michael Colombo, Kenneth Boadu, Dylan Myers, Peter Krohn, David Curry-Brian, Colton Nutbrown, Nathan Long, James Hurst, Charles Tinsley, Jonathan Ellis, Zachary Hatfield, Nicholas Cooper **SECOND ROW** Edward Curran, James Krogmann, Alexander Nysmith, Russell Fly, Foster Ezell, Kevin Delaney, Stephen Dolan **THIRD ROW** William Furlow, Bradley Binzer, Samuel Hughson, Adam Masenheimer, Zachary Meluson, Sean Moeller, Jacob Painter **FOURTH ROW** William O'Conner, Patrick Rainey, Ryan Cross

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



PICTURED Carlos Diniz, Madeline Healy, Alexandra Kozlowski, Kymberlee Schneider, Reza Malik, Haley Halcrow, Shelby Friend, Matthew Medwed

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



PICTURED Daniel Hawes, Despina Giannopoulos, Samuel Perkins, Daniel Slattery, Kevin Leaven, Sovanpechta Sok, Kyle Van Fleet

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GRAPHIC ARTS



FIRST ROW Stephanie Morales, Jennifer Craddock, Mary Jagers, Kasia Burns, Kayla Lewis, Kathryn Magnier **SECOND ROW** Amelia LeCroy, Mike Now, Amber Montgomery, Rachel Reynolds, Alexandra Rathjens, Allison Shinsky

WOMEN'S CLUB ULTIMATE FRISBEE



FIRST ROW Rachel Reynolds, Jessica Crowley, Savanna Herr, Emily Hivick, Kristin Weyenberg, Elissa Diaz, Sara Denney, Melissa Schlomann, Madelyn Dellert **SECOND ROW** Sydney Kane, Molly Rowland, Emily Anderson, Joellen Ceide, Olivia Szendey, Jameela Abdullahi, Sophia Welch, Natalie Weare, Alina Pantano, Anna Toth

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



FIRST ROW Erica Boroshok, Tenzin Phuntsok, Amanda Trenchard, Sophie Barrowman, Rachel Ellsmore, Alexa Shepherd **SECOND ROW** Rachel Lockwood, Olivia Shah, Rebecca Sabeau, Meghan Morinec, Giuliana Luna, Paige Huffman **THIRD ROW** Kaitlin Isham, Kristen Connors, Lauren Hughes, Madison Vick, Tristan Stitt, Brandon Pfost, Matthew Alsbergas

ALPHA PHI OMEGA



FIRST ROW Victoria Worthington, Morgan White, Mary Pearsall, Sarah Eline, Leah Miessler, Anne Lorenzoni, Morgan Billingsley, Jenna Pittman, Bailey King, Laura Yates, Jenna Hart, Margaret Wight, Emily Williams, Claire Williamson **SECOND ROW** Kyle Anderson, Karlie Lorenz, Margaret Eisenhardt, Meghan Rayhill, Karli Crispin, Sara Bloss, Andrea Uhlig, Lindsey Messer, Jake McCormick, Corey Thompson, Maria Camila Restrepo Chavez, Amanda Bow, Julia Stringer, Cameron Robinson, Kayla Bruni, Alexandra Lepecha **THIRD ROW** Tyler Gingrich, Tess Jacobson, Zachary Smith, Ryan Strand, Zachary Holley, Antonio Ruiz Ezquerro, Michael White, Cailin Dyer, Caroline Fleury, Madison Stannard, Dustin Beckner, Rachel Hoffman, Lexi Miller, Adam Simpson, Lindsey McLucas, Tenzin Phuntsok, Samantha Frey **FOURTH ROW** Dustin Norton, Evan Gallagher, Jacob Rhue, Justin Hindle, Thomas Giordano, Corey Smith, Michael Stefanik, Rebecca Roithmayr

ASIAN STUDENT UNION



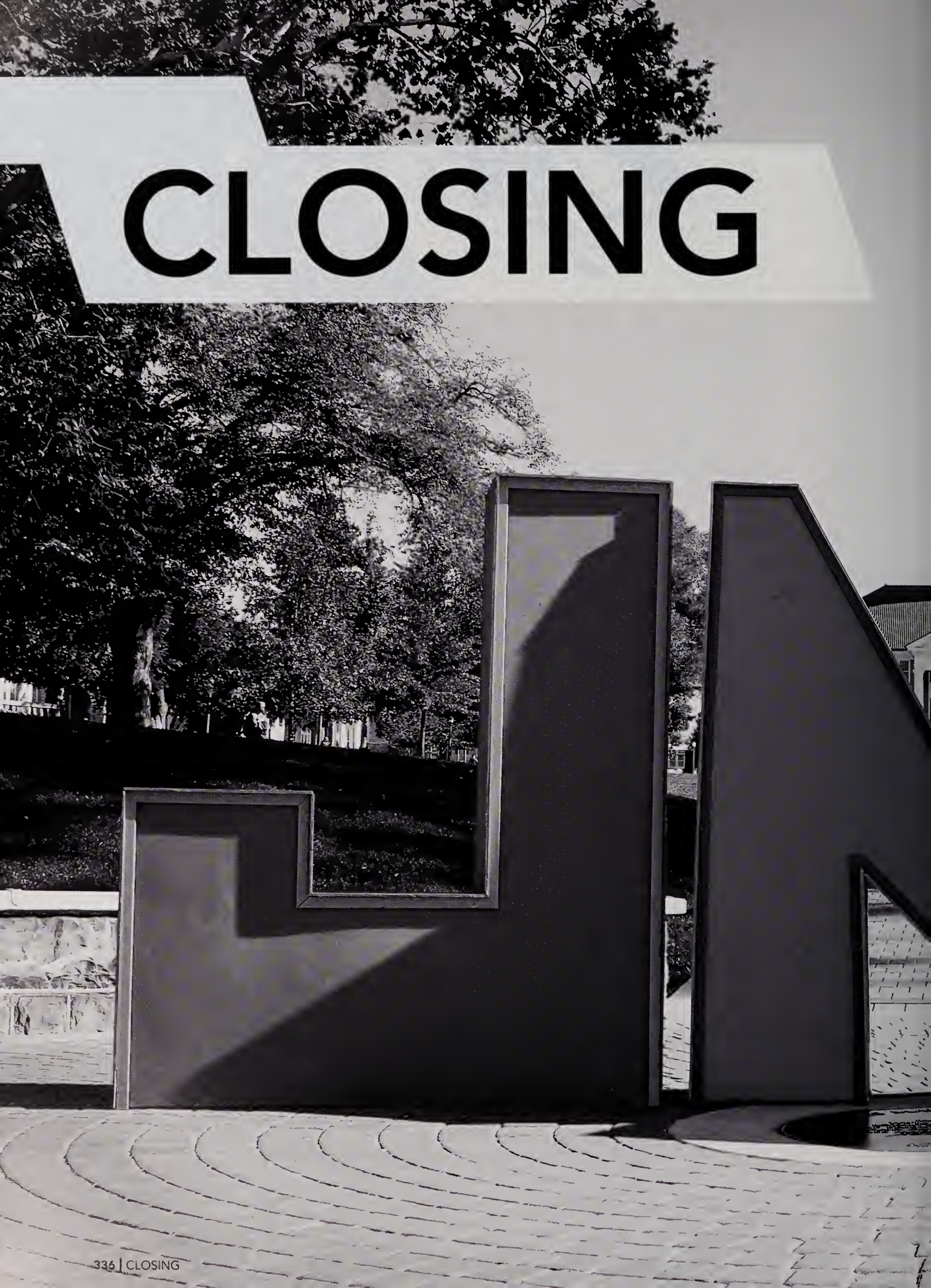
FIRST ROW Ngan Phu, Jennifer To, Trina Lam **SECOND ROW** Jessica Nguyen, Joanie Nguyen, Mona Abdelhamid, Abishek Ramakrishnan

ALPHA EPSILON PI



FIRST ROW Joshua Sturm, Christopher DeConti, Samuel Forrest, Jordan Taylor, Drew Davidoff, Steven Weinstein **SECOND ROW** Hunter Kahn, Heath Morrison, Timothy Klein, Taylor Jordan Gouterman, Jason Schultz, Joshua Mitnick **THIRD ROW** Benjamin Bremmer, David Kadycz, Jeremy Soler, Daniel Schwartz

CLOSING





BLUESTONE **STAFF**

First row, left to right: Alaina Agatone, Ingrid Basheda, Christine Garrett, Alexandra Orndahl, Andrianna Boykin, Ziyu Xu, Catherine Burch, Raja Abdul-Badee

Second row, left to right: Kayla Medina, Alexis Painter, Rebecca Reid, Erin Paulsen, Leah Onderdonk, John Kelly, Dominique Dean, Abigail Mumma, China Boynes, Vanessa Nikolic, Marissa Scholler





EDITORIAL BOARD



HANNAH ADAMS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I told myself I wouldn't cry as I typed this, but here I am, inevitably crying while I am typing this letter to the few who will venture this far into the book. I cannot describe what this book has meant to me, or greater yet, what how deeply it has impacted my life. If anyone would've told the scared, immature little freshman I was back in 2013 that I would have this on my resume after I graduated, I would've thought they were crazy. I dove into this book with little training, completely unprepared for what was ahead of me, and with a little luck and a LOT of help, I managed to turn these 360 blank pages into something that would be read, and hopefully cherished, by thousands. I cannot express how grateful I am to be able to serve as the editor-in-chief of this book, and I absolutely need to thank those without whom I undoubtedly could not have accomplished this feat.

To Michelle, my humble, fearless partner — without you this would not have happened. Let me say that again, somewhat for effect, but also because I need you to hear it again. Without you guiding me and calming me down when I needed it, this book would not have gotten finished. I cannot express how deeply my gratitude runs for you, or how relieving it was to have someone constantly on my side. I will never forget the time where you looked me in the eyes, after the millionth thing had gone wrong in the past hour, and told me that everything is fine, and it will all get done. I am sad for the next editor-in-chief because he or she will not have this massively calming force to help them through some of the perils of running a publication. I cannot wait to see where you end up, and I will always enjoy watching you succeed.

To Giuliana, my soulmate (in a friend way) and favorite Chick-fil-A date — without getting too sappy, you are absolutely the wingd beneath my wings. Sometimes the only thing I would look forward to was coming to the office and seeing your shining face looking up at me, asking me if I wanted to maybe go to Chick-fil-A. You were most definitely the heart of this team, and I am forever grateful for the times you were able to keep the mood light when all anyone wanted to do was go home and sleep. I could write a book about what you mean to me and this board, but I will save my words and just call you tomorrow. I know there are big plans in store for you, and I can't wait to be by your side through it all. By the way, I am not a fan of this whole thing where you graduated and left me. Come back. I'll buy you pizza.

To Jill, my kickass partner in crime — I always knew I could turn to you if I needed something done the right way. I couldn't believe how many things you were able to juggle and still be as poised as you were. I know that making this book was particularly stressful at times, but you handled the pressure better than anyone, and still managed to make everyone laugh with your ridiculous Snapchats. I know you are going to absolutely slay your senior year. Don't forget about us little people when you become famous.

To Christy, the only one who could actually fill G's shoes — I am continually shocked by your finesse and maturity. I was so nervous when trying to find a replacement for copy editor in the spring, but you stepped into the role with grace and absolutely blew me away with both your knowledge and your humility. I was so impressed by you jumping at the chance to help, and doing anything we needed without complaints. I know that you will thrive in whatever you decide to do, and I sure hope it has something to do with publications, because girl, you rock at this yearbook stuff.

To Carley, my sassy and adorable photo editor — watching you grow this year was one of the best things. You came on staff as a barely-out-of-the-dorms sophomore, and grew into this impeccable young lady who gained both independence and confidence. I loved having you around this year to keep us entertained, and keep Kenny in line when he decided to misbehave. I know you are going to have a great next two years here at JMU.

To Kenny, the only guy stuck in a room full of girls — thank you. Also, please do not hate me for coercing you into being my design editor without alluding to all the things I would make you do. It was nice to have a male brain in the office to ask advice and make sure our book was appropriate for men and women. I am constantly amazed by how talented you are, and I am grateful you decided to lend us some of your wisdom. This book looks absolutely incredible.



To Kelly, my beautiful roommate and sweet friend — thank you for feeding and petting Wilson while I was stuck in the room with carpet for walls. I am so lucky to have sat next to you in English class, and I am even luckier that it ended up working out that we could live together. I will forever cherish my time with you, and I can't wait to see you rock being a teacher!

To Anthony, my rock and most unexpected friend — I am so glad you came over that one day for chicken tenders, and decided to take me on a date even though I was clearly crazy. This year would've been impossible without you pushing me to succeed and making me incredibly sugary coffee. Thank you for being my favorite breakfast date and one of my closest friends. I know that no matter what happens in the coming years, you will always be one of my favorite parts about senior year.

To Mom, Dad, and Kyle — thank you for being my support system and always encouraging me to go for what I wanted. I know that me deciding to pursue photography and jump ship on the the medical school boat was an unexpected twist, but all three of you showed me grace and support, and for that, I will be forever grateful. Thank you, thank you, thank you. This college experience would never have happened without you all.

And finally, to Roop G-6, our own hallowed hall — I will never forget the memories, tears, smiles and friendships that were held within these walls. One day, I hope to visit and see that nothing has changed, except that someone else was transformed by the experience they held. Roop, you will forever be one of my strongest foundations.



MICHELLE CRIQUI

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

When I tell people that being on the ed board means that I have to spend several weekends a year trapped in a small, musty, yellow-carpeted office, they tend to look at me with an expression of shock and pity. But as I sit here now, surrounded by some of the funniest, craziest, most creative and passionate people I could've ever hoped to meet in my time at JMU, I've never felt luckier to spend my time confined to the basement of Roop Hall.

Hannah — It has been an absolute honor running this book with you. You are truly a force to be reckoned with, and I can't tell you how much I admire your ability to take an impossible situation and turn it around for the best. Thank you for being the Han Solo to my Chewbacca. I hope you keep on snapping those gorgeous photos, jamming out to alternative rock and looking up hilarious mom texts. Like you said back on our LA trip: "We have so many futures." Whatever path you choose to take, remember that if you can run an entire university publication, you can do anything.

Jill — Thank you for being my partner-in-crime over the years! It had to be fate that we were paired up for a story about pet cockroaches back in 2014, because from that moment on, our unstoppable journalism team was born. In last year's letter, I wrote that I couldn't wait to see what adventures we would get into — and oh, did we. Specifically, adventures involving good 'ol SMAD 311. Let's just say, I'll never look at Dunkin' cups the same way. I hope your senior year is filled with plenty of new adventures...preferably ones that involve cooperative interviewees.

G — First of all: "You seem awfully qualified...but is there a reason you don't have a face?" Giuliana, thank you for making this office so much fun. From throwing Reese's into the air in an attempt to celebrate Halloween, to having the monotonous Google voice read song lyrics and intricate names out loud, you had me laughing through each deadline. I loved getting to lead that Balfour workshop with you in Richmond — if we don't end up at publishing houses in NYC, joining forces as a yearbook rep team should definitely be our plan B.

Christy — As soon as you stepped in as copy editor, it felt as if you had been on the ed board all year long. You fit in so well and are just so much fun to be around. I wish that we had known each other better back when we had two classes together, because we could've totally teamed up to get through them. Thank you for going from a semester abroad

in beautiful Prague to one cooped up with us in this strange, old room, bestowing your knowledge of "The Office" upon us. This book — and this semester — would not have been the same without you.

Carley — I'm so glad "The Bluestone" forced us to meet, because even though you literally live right below me, we probably never would have otherwise! You're such a gifted artist and photographer, and your contributions to the office "Meme Wall" had me losing it when I was supposed to be productive. Thank you for your gradual increase in sassiness as the night goes on, and for indulging me on those completely necessary coffee runs. I know the second half of your college career will never be the same without us, but I hope that somehow it's even better.

Kenny — Thank you for all of your tireless work on this book! After all those all-nighters you pulled designing each page to perfection, there's no doubt in my mind that volume 108 is going to be freaking amazing. I'll always remember your random bouts of singing throughout the weekend,

your appreciation for Taylor Swift and your ingenious idea to play "Gilmore Girls" and "The Office" throughout D4, which definitely boosted our team morale by at least 200 percent. Congrats on setting the bar impossibly high for any male editor that may come after you.

To my amazing family — Mom, Dad, Shane, Brigitte, Nicki and Christi, thank you for everything. You're all my favorite humans, and I love you so much. Also, shout-out to our puppy Bella, kitty Gigi and my betta fish, Bellamy, who totally missed me during the long hours I spent in Roop G-6.

To "The Bluestone" — Thank you for four completely unforgettable years. This office may have been the living embodiment of the "This Is Fine" meme at times (Google it, kids), but we always made it through. Through the ups and downs, struggles and triumphs, amazing trips and hours spent sitting at our desks, this yearbook changed me for the better — and I wouldn't have it any other way.



GIULIANA MACALUSO

COPY EDITOR

Yearbook's given me a place to learn to write and edit,

For teaching me more of this craft, I give it lots of credit.

The yearbook is completed, but beyond the work we've done,

It was the members of the board who made it so much fun.

Hannah — You have seen me at my best and at my worst,

Because in terms of roommates, you were my very first.

I loved the times we'd ask, "Are you ready for the light?"

After which we'd debrief until late into the night.

Michelle — You're an example, you truly are a saint,

Take any job and do it well, and all without complaint.

Time with you is time well spent, discussing Berenstain Bears

On lunch breaks in the office -- to you no one compares.

Jill — You are a powerhouse, so capable and true,

Your writing is intriguing and your ideas new.

I love your spunk and your unrivaled love for Zayn Malik,

You make our team more lively, turn a day to bright from bleak.

Carley — It is fitting that Lightroom's your device,

You light up every room you're in -- you're fun and you are nice.

You draw, you paint, you photograph, you're talented in art,

Above all of these things you have a kind and gentle heart.

Kenny — I admire your true talent for design,

Your kindness and your zeal for life truly make you shine.

Your passion for your craft and your perfected taste in music

Are two things that I think of when I think of Kenny Busic.

Christy — Your ability to seamlessly transition

Testifies to your knowledge and to your ambition.

Your goals and journalistic skill make you a total star,

I have no doubt that in this world, you will go very far.

Roop G-6, you've been a home to me and many others,

Turning some peers into sisters and others into brothers,

So Ed Board, my love for you is at an all-time high,

Rivaled only by my love for a fresh, hot pizza pie.



JILLIAN WRIGHT

MANAGING EDITOR

As I reflect upon my final stay in our dingy office, it's difficult to identify my favorite memories formed within these meme-covered walls, as there are many to choose from. Here are a few.

Hannah — I beseech you, please don't graduate. You will forever be my favorite photographer/bio nerd. What I admire most about you is your tenacity and willingness to take on literally any challenge without hesitation. The past four years spent working with you have been filled with laughs, tears, snacks and butt touches, and I wouldn't change a thing. You and Michelle are always there for me whenever I need your advice. I'll always be your little Jilly Bean.

Michelle — You are truly the most compassionate person I have ever met. You always see the goodness in people, a quality that is rather difficult to find. My fellow Bluestoner, never change. I am incredibly grateful to have been able to share such frustrating yet hilarious moments with you in SMAD 311. I miss you already, Ms. Cherokee.

Giuliana — The office honestly hasn't been the same without you. I truly miss hearing you ask when we'll order pizza at least four times per day. Where would we be without your Google Translate audio tools

to play our favorite jams? You are, without a doubt, an AP Style goddess. I hope one day I can be in your wedding with Iverson White.

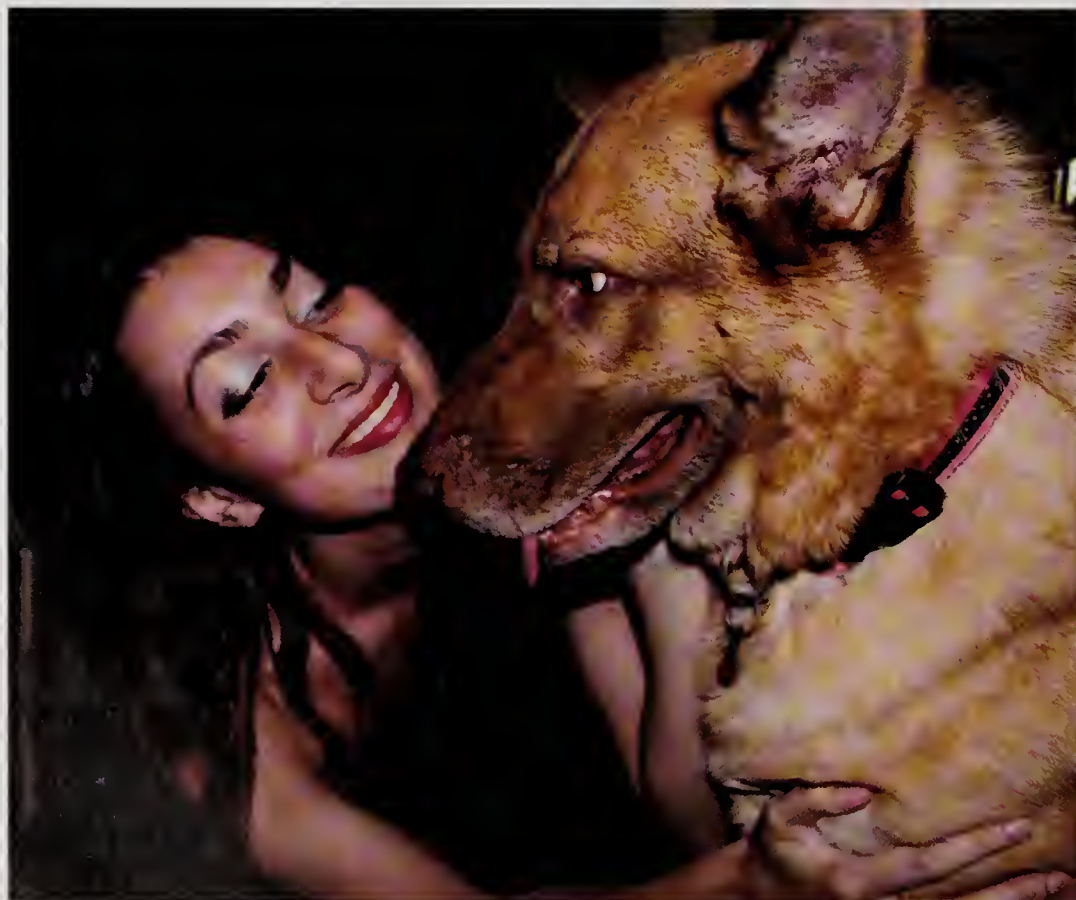
Carley — My fellow Snapchatting egg, your ability to capture life's most precious moments is uncanny. You and I connect on a level of sassiness that few understand. Let's keep it that way. Always remember how strong you are, and never let Chick-fil-A prevent you from achieving your dreams... keep asking for those extra pickles.

Kenny — Rest assured, we appreciate you way more than Theo does. Thanks for your old school hip hop playlists and throwback Fall Out Boy tunes that somehow kept us motivated. Let us never forget the time I choked eating a Milk Dud, and you said if this had actually killed me, I would have "Milk Died." G would be so proud. Mr. Philly Cheese Steak, here's to you refusing to look at the camera in our photos taken at 2 a.m.

Christy — It was such a pleasure working with you this past semester. You definitely took on your role as a pro copy editor. I've finally met someone who perhaps loves food more than I do. May your days be filled with calzones and Campus Cookies brownies.

To every member of the editorial board, "Thanks Fr Th Mmrs," even when they weren't so great.

And of course, thank you to my parents, to whom I am eternally grateful. Words cannot express how much I appreciate the countless sacrifices you have made to ensure I have a promising future. I love you both with all that I have.



CARLEY TOMS

PHOTO EDITOR

As I sit here at my desk writing this and thinking about this past year, I can't help but smile. I remember first stepping foot into this cramped, mustard-colored, carpet-covered office the beginning of my freshman year, not at all knowing what to expect. Looking back, I can't imagine not ever starting as a staff member for the 2015 yearbook. It led me to the opportunity of being this year's photo editor and ultimately to the rest of this crazy, sleep-deprived, sassy bunch of individuals also known as the editorial board.

Hannah – You are the rock of this group. Without you I'm not sure I would've been able to come into this position with such confidence. You are always there for me whenever I need you. If I had a question, concern, computer problem or even small mental breakdown, you were always there with a helpful answer. You lead by example and I must applaud you for that. You handle so many behind the scenes things that ultimately are what keep this yearbook running. I will forever be grateful for your hard work, dedication, generosity and kindness.

Michelle – You are one of the most genuine and sweet individuals I have ever met. The effort you gave to this organization and to all of us is astounding. You have been and will always be on top of your game, of which I am extremely envious. Thank you for all the pity giggles from the back corner of the room when I attempt to make a joke, for being such a wonderful neighbor (since our apartments and bedrooms are literally right above one another). You are a positive ray of sunshine while we are stuck in a windowless room for an average of

about 120 hours. I cannot wait to see where life takes you after you graduate this year.

Giuliana – Our time together on the editorial board was sadly cut in half after you graduated in December, but the impact you've made on me and the rest of us is one that will last. There's been a strange silence through the all the Netflix shows and now I realize it's because you're not here farting and having the computer read aloud strange sentences to the rest of the group, which I honestly miss. Thank you for your insane knowledge of AP Style and for always making me laugh. You keep everything light, fun and smelly. Now, please come back!

Christy – You came into this position halfway through the year, which is a daunting task. Not even because of the yearbook either, but because you had to start dealing with all of us. You probably questioned your decision the minute you started Deadline three with us and realized how sarcastic, scattered and strange we really are. In the end, we sucked you into our little yellow bubble of weirdness and I'm so glad you embraced the position like you were the one in the seat to begin with. Thank you for your acceptance, diligence and love of coffee. You fit right in.

Jillian – Potato-Head! You were my go-to freshman year and I'm proud to follow in your footsteps. Your little scoffs and eye-rolls are what I live for. Thank you for your hard work, love of boys, butts and everything in between. Together, we have enough sass to spread around the office for years to come. You are such a bright and helpful individual, never

getting annoyed by my constant questions about copy editing and AP style (at least not to my face). Thank you for letting me be your favorite potato and for all the ugly Snapchats throughout our long weekends in the office — it really keeps me going. You are so true to who you are and I cannot love and thank you enough for that.

Kenny – You and I have sort of been in our own little design and photography world on one side of the office. You are the lucky one that gets to overhear me talking to myself, humming or singing different songs badly, or banging my head against the wall when technology gets the best of me — which is more often than not. I'm so glad you joined the editorial board this year because the book would not even be a book without your relentless time and effort. Thank you for calling me out on my terrible math skills, for laughing at my sarcastic responses, for playing throwbacks and T. Swift, and for allowing me to learn so much from you. Spending a weekend in a small room full of strange girls multiple times throughout the year could not be an easy task, but you truly embrace it. I can't wait to see where your graphic design practice leads you in the future.

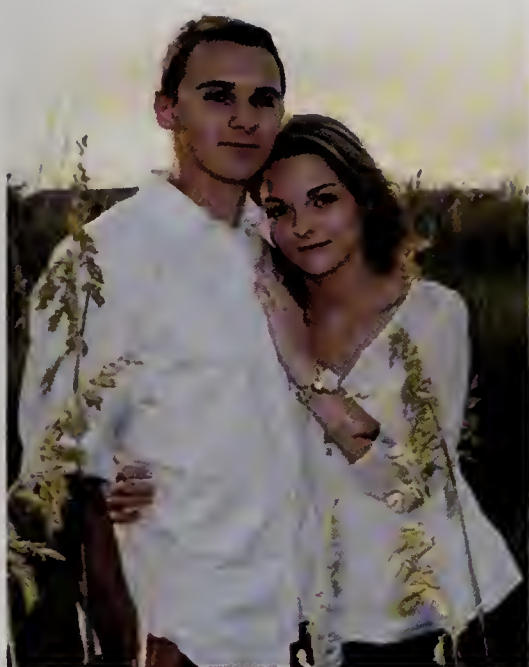
To my mom and sister – Thank you for your love and support throughout my time here. I know I am easily stressed and anxious, but your encouragement, tenderness and constant push are what keep me working hard. I will forever be indebted to you.

To my boyfriend Marc – Thank you for being my best friend and my motivator. I know I am not always the easiest to deal with, but you love me through it all. You know me better than anyone else and your tender words are exactly what I need to hear when I let my work get the better of me. Thank you for always being there for me. I love you.

To my roommates – Thank you for understanding when I'm tired, for acknowledging my pet peeves and working to fix them, and for being my home away from home. I appreciate and love you all so much.

To my Big and other sorority sisters – Thank you for being a break from everything when I really need it. You all have made this year so much fun.

This year has been one to remember, and I wouldn't be the person I am today or where I am today if I didn't have each and every one of you by my side. Thank you all, and thank you JMU.



KENNETH BUSIC

DESIGN EDITOR

It took until the second semester of my junior year in college before I felt comfortable actively seeking real experience in the design field. At first, I wasn't exactly sure where to look, but eventually I came to the realization that I should get involved with "The Bluestone." My beautiful girlfriend, Laura Baker, was roommates with the soon to be editor-in-chief, Hannah Adams, so I decided to ask her how I could get involved. Originally hoping that I could contribute spread designs or play some sort of small role in the book, I was pleasantly surprised to find out that they had an opening for design editor. When the decision came down, I found out that I had gotten the position and I haven't looked back since.

Despite being the first male editorial board member on "The Bluestone" in a number of years, the only times I felt out of place were when conversations like the ones about baseball player's "assets" went on for at least twenty minutes.

In the office, I was one of two people sitting at desks that directly faced the wall; the other was Carley, our photo editor. With our backs to the rest of the office, and being the only ed board members to be in our first year, we exchanged a number of confused glances, and exchanged even more questions as we got to know each other throughout the year. Carley always found a way to pick the perfect pictures to complement the spread, regardless of the placement or size of the photo frames in the designs. Although she has yet to make a decision about her involvement in future editions of the book, as a sophomore, Carley is already ahead of the game.

Another member of staff that I had been introduced to before joining "The Bluestone," was Giuliana, our copy editor, but it was during my first semester on staff that I really got to know her. While I was frequently laughing at her variety of ways to expel gas, she always brought a positivity and boosted morale around the office. Well, she usually boosted morale, except when she had to do her job and let AP Style suck the fun out of everything. Seriously though, Giuliana was a joy to work with and always had a smile on her face that couldn't help but spread to the rest of us.

Unfortunately, Giuliana was stolen away from the staff to enter into the real world after her December graduation; however, that meant that we gained another member on our editorial board. Christy, who came in for the

latter half of the book, was a shoe-in. Despite the fact she was given virtually no Bluestone-specific training before coming in during our third deadline weekend, she was comfortable within the staff and immediately helped to edit stories. She may defend Mumford & Sons and have an Eno sticker on her laptop, but Christy was a heckuva copy editor and I hope she continues to work with "The Bluestone."

Although I originally misunderstood Jill to be another nickname for Giuliana, I came to a rude awakening when I got to meet the entire staff. Jill was the sort of person who I wish I could have been if I had been more motivated at an earlier point in my JMU career; she worked on an unfathomable amount of JMU publications and dipped her toes into design, photography, and copy editing. While she did permanently delete one of our spreads during Deadline 3 (rest in peace), I have been seriously impressed by Jill's ability to work in a multitude of areas and enjoyed getting to know her.

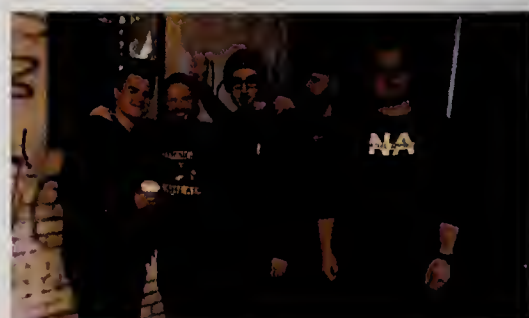
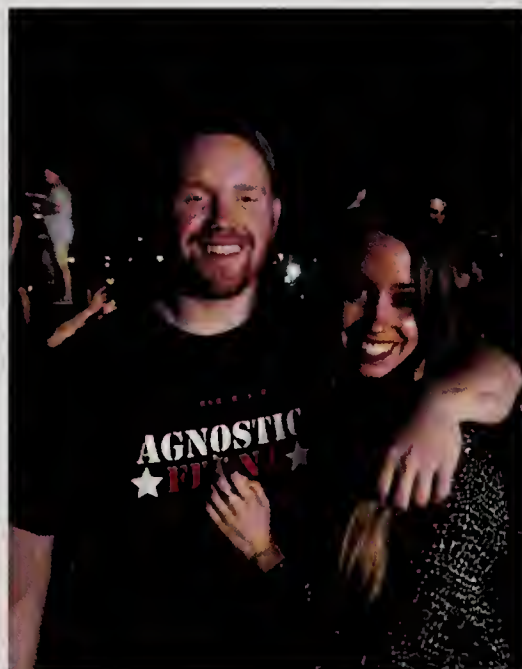
Sitting catty-corner to me in the office, is Michelle, who is definitely one of the kindest people I have had the pleasure of getting to know at JMU. No matter what design I have, I know that I can rely on Michelle to give it approval and praise. Everyone involved in the Bluestone owes a huge thanks to Michelle for being calm and helpful regardless of the situation. I have always appreciated Michelle's ability to get work done and I appreciate the amount of work she puts into every story.

Editor-in-Chief Hannah Adams helped me find this opportunity and has continued to help me after I received the design editor

position by working closely on design decisions and showing me some of the Bluestone-specific aspects of the book. While I've known Hannah the longest of everyone on the staff, working alongside her on the book has given me an appreciation for her work ethic and ability to manage. While creating a 360-page book in a matter of eight days is a tall-task, Hannah has done a great job managing the details and keeping us on track.

I owe a huge thank you to everyone who has given me purpose and helped me along the way. In particular, I want to thank all my friends: Jon, Spencer, Lenny, Sam, Josh, Nathan, Jamie, Dan, Kienan, the Wades, all of Zoohorse and so many more. I am thankful for all of the people I've gotten to know through ORL, specifically Will and Mark. I owe so much of who I am to my wonderful, caring girlfriend Laura Baker and the graciousness of her entire family; their impact in my life the last two years was immeasurable. Lastly, I want to thank my mother, sisters, and brother-in-law; although, we have been through an enormous amount of change in the last five years, our love for each other has only grown. My mom is my rock and I have no idea where I'd be today if she hadn't stayed strong and supported me through all of my highs and lows.

Overall, "The Bluestone" has been incredibly rewarding, and while it has consisted of many long, stressful nights, I have been lucky to work with such an energetic and humorous staff that has managed to make all the long nights in the Roop G-6 fly by.



CHRISTY FREITAG

COPY EDITOR

It seems silly to say how my time as copy editor feels like it has flown by, because it actually has. With only two deadlines under my belt, I'm shocked by the sense of belonging I've already felt with this group in such a short period of time. You've all welcomed me into your crazy world with open arms and I'm so grateful; I could've never made the transition without the incredible support from this team. Not only has my time with yearbook made me a more capable writer and a more confident person, it has introduced me to this group of dedicated, talented and ridiculous people.

Hannah — It's honestly hard to imagine you not as our editor-in-chief. You've graciously taken on this impossible role and, although I wasn't here last semester, this position has been such a natural fit for you. You've yet to have an existential crisis (knock-on-wood) and that itself is impressive. Your bubbly demeanor, in the midst of the chaos that is deadline weekends, has made this whole experience so rewarding. I hope that I might come to embody your infectious positivity (and your extensive knowledge on John Krasinski) in my life; I could not have hoped for a better editor-in-chief. Thank you.

Michelle — I can remember last year as a staff writer being so unsure of myself as a writer; I had no idea what I was doing and was very intimidated by the whole editing process. But honestly, having you as my editor for most of my work last year gave me the confidence I never knew I had and the confidence to try out editing. You are the most encouraging person and oh so humble; you seem to always prioritize others over yourself and, in the most modest way, manage to be an amazing writer. Thank you for your contagious laugh and thank you for being a role model to me.

G — I could never completely fill your shoes. But, I've tried my absolute best and I've become a better writer and editor because of you. Your passion for AP Style is why I applied for the copy editor position in the first place. You embody "grammar police" in the best sense of the phrase, and it's so refreshing knowing someone who cares as much about the English language as I do. Your electric personality makes spending hours in stuffy Roop checking for Oxford commas and editorializing somewhat bearable.

Jill — Thank you for the periodic updates on Bumble boys; it's been a refreshing break to the hectic nights we've had. Seriously though, I haven't known you for long, but I can see how

genuine of a person you are; you never utter empty words, you are concise, bluntly honest and hilarious in your writing and in your life. Never change.

Kenny — thank you for never failing to play music and refreshing "The Office" when Netflix tells us we've been watching for too long; your easy-going temperament has kept me sane during those 12-hour days. Your dedication to graphic design has also been inspiring to me; you've always been the last to leave the room at night (or should I say early in the morning?). Anyway, thanks for the added testosterone in the room. You've made this experience more enjoyable.

Carley — I've seriously appreciated your sassiness and sincerity; I know that whatever you say, it's exactly what you mean and you're not afraid to say it. You express your frustrations and share in the miseries and joys of those long nights. I hope you remain strong in your Starbucks fast and always remember: Ted Mosby is secretly the worst.

And to my family — Because of your undying support in all that I do, I've had the courage to pursue my passion for journalism. My part in this yearbook is dedicated to you, for pushing me to become the best, most authentic version of myself.

As I write this, with the smell of stale pizza and exhaustion of 30+ hour weekends hanging in the air, I can't help but become nostalgic thinking about the frustrating, hilarious roller coaster rides of D3 and 4. Thanks for bringing me into the insanity. I'll carry it with me always.

And as corny as it is, I'm going to mention my favorite quote. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Meade

Okay, so maybe we're not changing the world, but hey, we've completed a 360-page book in a matter of a few months, thanks to morale boosts from caffeine, Domino's Pizza and each other; So, I'd say that's quite the accomplishment.



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COLOPHON

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